2008 NRCS PIA Summary

Pacific Islands Area
Lawrence Yamamoto, Director

Honolulu, Hawaii

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Chief Visits Big Island for U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Meeting

The U.S. Coral Reef Task Force's annual meeting was held in August 2008 on the Big Island of Hawaii. Chief Arlen Lancaster was a speaker at the conference and also participated in field tours during his visit.

The meeting highlighted conservation strategies, successes, and challenges in Hawaii. It also provided a forum for the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force to hear about and discuss the priority threats facing reefs and innovative solutions and partnerships that can be explored to more effectively address these threats. Workshops included recreational stewardship, land-based sources of pollution, bridging communities and government, and climate change responses.

The NRCS staff from Waimea coordinated a visit to Chris Robb's organic vegetable farm followed by a stop at Kahua Ranch to see the grazing management and water storage for livestock.

The NRCS staff from Hilo coordinated a visit to Island Dairy, one of two remaining dairy operations in Hawaii. The tour concluded at Richard Ha's fruit and vegetable farm to see the air, energy, nutrient, water, and pest management practices.

Thank you to everyone who helped!

Chief Arlen Lancaster (left) at a traditional opening ceremony in Keahou before the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force meeting started.

Chief in Waimea (above) and Hilo (below).

Lawrence Yamamoto,

Director of the PIA

Message from the Director of the Pacific Islands Area

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical and financial assistance to private land users and communities across the Pacific Islands. We work throughout the State of Hawaii, the Territories of Guam and American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Freely Associated States of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. This summary is a brief summary of the work we have done in the federal fiscal year of 2008.

2008 proved to by another very challenging year. Congressional passage of the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (Farm Bill) in May modified a number of our financial and technical assistance programs. In addition, changing congressional priorities eliminated funding for the Watershed Planning Program severely restricting the services we provided through that program in the Pacific Islands in 2008. We also have made a major effort to improve our fiscal accountability which also proved challenging. However I believe we have come through these challenges stronger and better able to serve our communities.

As we have in the past, NRCS delivers our programs directly to individuals and through partnerships with local governments, Non-Government Organizations and others. I would like to thank all of our partners for their hard work and assistance in serving the communities for yet another year. Our work together has benefited many people and has equated to well over $14 Million in financial assistance to the agricultural communities throughout Hawaii and the American Pacific.

But the work is not done.

There are still people who need help protecting our island's natural resources. They need help controlling invasive weeds. They need help protecting against soil erosion. They need help to prevent flooding. They need help in restoring the habitat of forest birds. They need help protecting our coral reefs. They need our help.

We look forward to working with all of our partners to meet this challenge. We hope to continue our work helping our neighbors. Helping people help the land.

Lawrence T. Yamamoto,
Director of the Pacific Islands Area

Conservation Technical Assistance in the Pacific Islands

The Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) Program is the foundation for providing conservation technical assistance to private landowners, conservation districts, and other organizations to address our natural resource concerns. NRCS technical assistance is based on the voluntary development of conservation plans and implementation of conservation practices/systems supported by science-based technology and tools.

In fiscal year 2008, NRCS conservationists in the Pacific Islands Area assisted in the development of 225 conservation plans to help clients address their natural resource concerns on 64,652 acres. NRCS also worked one-on-one with private landowners who voluntarily installed conservation practices (without Farm Bill financial assistance) on 19,518 acres of cropland and 9,081 acres of grazing lands. Typical conservation practices implemented in the Pacific Islands Area during fiscal year 2008 include:

- Brush Management – 2,858 acres
- Cover Crop – 1,911 acres
- Fence – 2,705 feet
- Pipeline – 2,300 feet
- Prescribed Grazing – 5,143 acres
- Tree/Shrub Establishment – 3,437 acres
- Upland Wildlife Habitat Management – 5,823 acres
- Vegetative Barrier – 656 acres
- Windbreak Establishment – 36,879 feet

Our conservation planning process, locally adapted conservation practices/systems, and technical knowledge is at the core of the effective CTA Program delivery system. NRCS field offices are located throughout the Pacific Islands Area in the following locations:

- Aiea, Oahu
- Lihue, Kauai
- Kahului, Maui
- Hoolehua, Molokai
- Hilo, Hawaii
- Waimea, Hawaii
- Kealakekua, Hawaii
- Pago Pago, Territory of American Samoa
- Barrigada, Territory of Guam
- Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
- Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia
- Palau (Koror), Republic of Palau

NRCS staff inspect mulch practice at Bernard Watson's farm, Yigo, Northern Guam. Needles from Ironwood are used to mulch vegetable crop fields. Pictured from left to right are; Kenneth Perez "Kenny G", Bernard Watson, Jocelyn Bamba (DC, Guam), and Craig Smith (RC, West Area Office). Photo: USDA-NRCS.

Conservation Technical Assistance at work. Beginning Farmer/Rancher, Jose San Agustin (left), and Soil Conservationist Joe Tuquero (right), discussing SWAPA concerns and Farm Bill Program assistance. Dededo, Northern Guam. Photo: USDA-NRCS.

Soil Conservation Technician, Sam Taylor (left) with Allan Figir (right) reviewing installation of interior electric smooth wire at the Flores ranch in Talofofo, Southern Guam. Photo: USDA-NRCS.

Tractor with auger implement used for digging 3-foot hole for corner H-Brace post for pasture fence at Flores Pasture in Talofofo, Southern Guam. From left to right, Oscar Flores, Ignacio Camacho, Bernard Burech, and Soil Conservation Technician, Sam Taylor. Photo: USDA-NRCS.

Annual Functions

Career Fairs

- BYU
- HPU
- Leeward CC
- U of Guam
- U of Hawaii

Earth Day in April

- Guam
- Hilo
- Honolulu
- Kona
- Maui
- Molokai

Partner Events

- Ag in the City
- Cattlemen's
- Farm Bureau
- HACD
- Hawaii Conservation Alliance
- Keiki Water Festival
- RC&D PacRim

Outreach Activities

Hawaii celebrates the First Agricultural Management Assistance Program in 2008. (Left to right) NRCS Director Lawrence Yamamoto, Congresswoman Mazie Hirono, Parker Ranch Executive Director Chris Kanazawa and Parker Ranch Livestock Manager Keoki Woods.

In the 2008 Farm Bill, Hawaii was added to the list of Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) eligible states. Parker Ranch, Inc., in Waimea, Hawaii, and Haleakala Ranch in Makawao, Maui will use the funding to address soil erosion, as well as water quality and quantity concerns for agricultural and livestock use. Congress established the AMA program as a component of the FY2002 Farm Bill. Now that AMA is available in Hawaii, more money will be available for island projects. The only states in the western region of the country to receive the AMA designation are Hawaii, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming.

The Oahu Resource Conservation and Development Council received a grant from the City and County of Honolulu in 2008. (Pictured left to right) Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation President Dean Okimoto, NRCS Director Lawrence Yamamoto, Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann, and Oahu RC&D Vice Chairperson Stephanie Whalen celebrated the award during "Ag in the City."

Layout and Design by Karl Mikasa.

Programs in the Pacific Islands Area

Farm Bill Programs: The 2002 Farm Bill continues to offer America's farmers and ranchers more incentives than ever before to voluntarily conserve natural resources on privately owned land. Its conservation provisions help reduce erosion, guard streams and rivers, restore and establish fish and wildlife habitat, and improve air quality. The summary below pertains to the financial assistance through Farm Bill Programs in the Pacific Islands Area.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP): Addresses significant natural resource concerns that are locally identified. In 2007, we utilized $6,002,312 for conservation planning, design and installation. In fiscal year 2008, $5,993,231 was distributed for implementation of conservation practices to address resource concerns on cropland, grazing land and animal feeding operations. Projects included noxious weed control, brush management, pasture hay land planting, mulching and cover crop.

Ground and Surface Water conservation (GSWC): Supports installation of irrigation related conservation practices on agricultural lands. In 2007, $380,831 was utilized to improve water delivery and irrigation efficiencies. No funds were available for this program in 2008.

Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA): In 2008, Hawaii became the 16th state to provide funding to producers under this program with $149,245. AMA supports multiple conservation practices including irrigation, windbreaks and organic farming.

Grassland Reserve Program (GRP): Helps landowners and operators restore and protect grassland, including rangeland and pastureland, and certain other lands, while maintaining the areas as grazing lands. In fiscal year 2007 and 2008 no GRP projects were funded.

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP): Develops and improves habitat for fish and wildlife. In 2007, $2,398,945 was utilized and $581,241in 2008.

Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP): This program is used towards wetland restoration, enhancement, or creation on private land to help protect critical wetland and riparian areas. In 2007 and 2008, no permanent easements were funded. However, in fiscal year 2007 and 2008, $284,700 and $382,500 respectively, was used for WRP restoration activities under long term agreements.

Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP): This program is used to help state, tribal, or local government entities to purchase the development rights to keep productive farm and ranchland in agricultural use. In fiscal year 2007, $1,090,028 was obligated for the purchase of development rights to keep land in agricultural use. In fiscal year 2008, $1,102,500 was used for FRPP.

Conservation Security Program (CSP): This program was designed to reward agricultural producers for their continued commitment to be good stewards of the land. In 2007, Pacific Islands' producers received $268,594 for their conservation efforts on watersheds on Kauai, Maui, Honolulu and Guam. In fiscal year 2008, $413,761 was used for CSP on watersheds on Kauai, Maui, Honolulu, Guam and Hawaii.

Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU): Provides opportunities for interdisciplinary and multi-agency research, technical assistance, and education. In fiscal year 2008, two agreements were approved, totaling $40,930.00. One was to address grazing practices for sheep and cattle; and the other was to support activities that addressed land-based pollution threats to coral reefs.

Agricultural Development Program (ADP): The Resource Conservation and Development Councils administered grants for community driven projects that promoted agricultural development. In 2008, Hawaii received and distributed approximately $710,000 to the Islands of Hawaii, Oahu, Molokai, Maui, and Kauai.

Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG): Under EQIP, grants were made available to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies while leveraging Federal investment in environmental enhancement and protection, in conjunction with agricultural production. In fiscal year 2007, six grants were approved totaling $346,875. In fiscal year 2008, five grants were approved totaling $290,260.

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Resource Technology Highlights

Wildlife Habitat Restoration

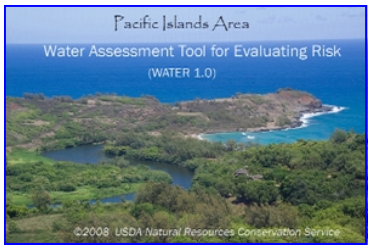
NRCS spearheaded an effort to streamline the permitting of wetland and stream wildlife habitat restoration projects by the Hawaii Department of Health (HDOH) under the Clean Water Act section 303. We organized meetings of interested parties including US Fish and Wildlife Service Ecological Services and Refuges, Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Division, EPA Honolulu Office, State of Hawaii Division of Forestry and Wildlife, University of Hawaii, Hawaii Pacific University and private organizations with the HDOH. The goal is to get a blanket certification from HDOH that will tier off the Army Corps of Engineers' Nationwide Permit 27 (CWA section 404) in order to facilitate wetland and stream wildlife habitat restoration projects and remain in compliance with local and federal Clean Water Act regulations. We have updated our NEPA compliance worksheet (CPA-52) and provided training to all field office staff throughout the PIA in order to be stay in compliance with environmental laws and regulations for our conservation planning. We continue to work closely with other wildlife and conservation agencies at the state and Federal level in order to stay up-to-date with the latest technologies and trends and to coordinate efforts in preserving the wildlife and habitat of the Pacific Islands Area. NRCS is on the executive committee of the Hawaii Conservation Alliance and a steering committee member of the newly proposed Hawaii Fish Habitat Partnership.

Deployed Phosphorus Runoff Risk Evaluation model, ver. 2.0 on all PIA PCs

This is the first NRCS-PIA technology tool to be deployed on a PIA-wide basis. This tool will assist conservation planners in conducting Phosphorus runoff risk evaluations for Nutrient Management Planning. It is an improved version of PRRE v. 1.0 and was a team effort between the a private sector programmer, the soils and technology team along with field office support for beta testing.

Mr. Tony Ingersoll–New Assistant Director for Technology

W.A.T.E.R. 1.0 Developed and Beta Tested



The Water Assessment Tool for Evaluating Risk (WATER) was the first effort to combine three important PIA NRCS tools: the Nitrogen Risk Evaluator (NRE) which is a leaching risk tool; the Phosphorus Runoff Risk Evaluator (PRRE); and the Water Quality Risk Technical Note, a general water quality risk assessment tool. This tool is to be officially released in 2009 in a CCE approved Microsoft Access database format, and will improve the rate of nutrient management planning on-the-ground and the environmental risk assessment that goes with it.

Mr. Phil "Kipp" Cherry–New State Agronomist for PIA

Coral Reef Task Force Meeting

The Big Island field offices and soils staff teamed up with folks from the state office and Mauna Kea SWCD to host three field tours on the big island for the annual US Coral Reef Task Force Meeting in Kona in August 2008. The tours showcased the efforts on the ground to reduce non-point source pollution and improve soil conservation and protect the shore waters and reefs of Hawaii from agricultural impacts.

Soils in the Pacific Islands Area

Soil Survey

Students describe soils at the Conservation Awareness Contest.

- Completed and published the soil survey of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. Spatial and tabular data as well as the manuscript (PDF) are available through the Web Soil Survey (http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/).
- Soil survey of the remainder of the Big Island (Hawaii) is over 80% complete.
- Mapping has been completed for Puna, Hilo Kona, Kau, and North Kohala.
- Mapping is currently occurring in Hamakua and the East Side of Mauna Kea.
- Soil surveys of Palau (update) and of the Northern Islands of the Commonwealth of the Marianas Islands (initial survey) are being completed. Both spatial and tabular information will be available to the public by the end of the current fiscal year.

Technical Soil Services

Kahoolawe views.

- PIA East staff provided WRP soil assistance for proposed projects on Kahoolawe and Oahu
- PIA East staff provided WHIP-related soil assistance for a proposed endangered species (nene) habitat improvement project on the Island of Hawaii.
- PIA East and staff provided EQIP-related soil assistance for projects throughout Hawaii with particular focus on "problem" areas on Maui, Oahu and the Island of Hawaii.
- PIA West staff supported Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI) training for ranchers in Guam and the CNMI.
- PIA East staff provided written reviews on numerous Draft EIS projects throughout the State
- PIA East and West staff updated and simplified access to soils information including hydric soils, important farmlands and highly erodible land.

Public Outreach

Bob Gavenda gives soils training in Pohnpei. Photo-USDA-NRCS.

- PIA East and West staff provided information and training on soils-related issues to local government staff and agency partners in Hawaii, Guam, CNMI, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.
- PIA East staff supported youth education through serving as judges at the Hawaii State Science Fair and at the Hawaii State Conservation Awareness Contest. They also presented information at the Big Island GIS/GPS field day.

Watershed Protection Programs

During 2008, PIA engineering staff provided considerable support to the **Emergency Watershed Protection** program (EWP), as well as the **Watershed Protection** and Flood Protection Programs (often called the PL 566 programs). Highlights of 2008 activities include:

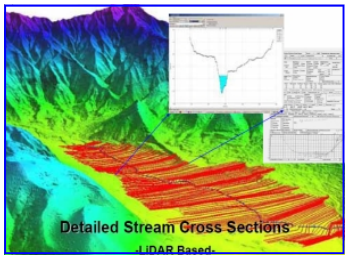
Kiholo Bay Earthquake EWP for Irrigation System Repairs (East)

The magnitude 6.7 earthquake of October 15, 2006 caused significant damage to the Honokaa-Paauilo Irrigation System and Waimea Irrigation System, cutting off agricultural water supply to nearly all farmers of northwest Hawaii Island. During 2008, NRCS worked in close association with the Hawaii Department Agriculture to pay out nearly $3.8 million towards emergency repairs for the two systems. Seven parallel projects helped speed the rate of repair at multiple damage sites that included two of the four surface water intakes supplying the Honokaa-Paauilo system, and the single intake supplying the Waimea system. The extreme remoteness of the HPIS Alakahi intake required that all manpower, construction materials and equipment be transported to the site via helicopter. Additional repair work entailed debris removal from collapsed tunnels and replacement of buckled flumes. Project completion will return both systems to full operational capacity during 2009.

Upper Waiohuli Wildfire Revegetation EWP Project (East)

Approximately 2,300 acres in the Kula Forest Reserve on the island of Maui were burned by the Upper Waiohuli fire in early 2007, with nearly 1,800 acres experiencing severe burning that left little remaining live vegetation. NRCS worked with the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources to provide financial assistance that resulted in the aerial seeding of rye grass across 400 acres. The treatment area was carefully selected to avoid areas populated by endangered plants, thereby minimizing potential adverse impacts. The beneficial effects of reducing soil erosion, improving soil organic matter, and increasing water infiltration will shorten the time until the area is once again supporting recreational hiking, camping and hunting.

Manoa Watershed Project (East)



The rainstorm event of October 2004 caused nearly $100 million in flood damages to residences, institutions and businesses of Manoa Valley on the island of Oahu. During 2008, NRCS completed its planning efforts (originally authorized in 2006) to improve flow capacity of Manoa Valley stream channels and bridges, by coordinating the publication of several technical reports. Twenty-five measures having flood-mitigation potential were developed to the conceptual design stage, addressing operational and aesthetic considerations raised through rigorous stakeholder review. Technical report results and methodologies are being incorporated into the US Army Corps of Engineers Ala Wai Watershed project that is addressing flooding and ecosystem restoration concerns over a broader region.

Watershed Protection Programs

Upcounty Maui Watershed (East): This project, which was authorized in 1997 under the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (PL 83-566), will provide agricultural water to farmers in the Upper Kula area of the Island of Maui through a dedicated agricultural distribution system which bypasses the County domestic water treatment facility. Sponsors are the Hawaii State Department of Agriculture (DOA), the County of Maui Department of Water Supply, and the Olinda-Kula Soil and Water Conservation District. This project will benefit over 170 farmers with approximately 500 acres of unique, high-value truck and ornamental crops. Maui Department of Water Supply and domestic water customers will also benefit with the elimination of water treatment at the Olinda Water Treatment Facility for 1 million gallons per day of agricultural water. Since 2000, design and construction have resulted in the installation of 3 miles of main distribution pipeline and 4 miles of lateral pipeline. When completed, the agricultural water distribution system will include 9 miles of main pipeline and 20 miles of lateral pipeline.

Upcountry Maui Watershed–Main Distribution Pipeline

Lower Hamakua Ditch Watershed (East): This project was authorized in 1999 under the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (PL 83-566). Sponsors are the Hawaii State Department of Agriculture (DOA), the Hamakua Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Mauna Kea Soil and Water Conservation District.

This project will ensure and improve the agricultural water supply to small farmers and ranchers along the Hamakua Coast of the Island of Hawaii through repair and restoration of the Lower Hamakua Ditch irrigation system. The 25-mile long Lower Hamakua Ditch was completed in 1910 and was used and maintained by the sugarcane plantations until their closings in the early 1990s.

Lower Hamakua Ditch Watershed–Flume Replacement

Since 2001, design and construction have resulted in the installation of two water storage reservoirs, two pipeline distribution laterals, repair or replacement of 31 flume structures, replacement of two historic flumes, modification of three intake structures, and realignment of the Hakalaoa Falls tunnel. Remaining construction elements include the repair of ditch linings, a pipeline lateral system, implementation of a monitoring and control system, and land treatment assistance to individual producers.

Lahaina Watershed (East): This project will provide flood protection to residential and commercial areas in the southern portion of Lahaina town on the Island of Maui. A diversion waterway between Lahainaluna Road and Kauaula stream and a system of sediment basins will provide both flood protection and coastal water quality improvements. Authorized in 1992, this project is sponsored by the County of Maui Department of Public Works and the West Maui Soil and Water Conservation District. The contract for the first phase of construction, including a second ocean outlet, highway culvert, sediment basin, and diversion waterway was executed in June 2005. Future phases include diversion channel, four sediment basins, and a debris basin/control structure on Kauaula Stream. Little progress has been made in construction due to a land rights dispute and a lack of funding.

Lahaina Watershed

LPL06 Watershed Surveys and Planning Program (East): **Little or no progress has been made under this program due to lack of funding. NRCS was unable to work on the two Watershed Planning projects in PIA East – South Kona Watershed and Lower Kula Watershed. However, project sponsors, including the Hawaii Department of Agriculture and the Central Maui Soil and Water Conservation Service, ensured that work on the two projects was not halted, by seeking and contributing non-federal funding for continuation of planning efforts.**

The work to plan flood protection improvements along Kaumana Drive in Hilo, for the Wailuku-Alenaio Watershed was conducted by a planning contractor in 2008. The Supplemental Watershed Plan and Environmental Assessment is scheduled for completion in 2009. Design and construction of the improvements will be coordinated with the local sponsor, the County of Hawaii, beginning in 2009.

Watershed Protection Programs

Decipulo Landslide Stabilization (West)

The Decipulo Landslide Stabilization EWP project eliminates an imminent hazard from continued landsliding adjacent to a residence created when Typhoon Tingting brought unusually high rainfall at the end of an unusually wet month. In addition to protecting the Decipulo home it prevents the accelerated sediment at delivery to the adjacent Namo River and pristine coral reef along the south-west coast of Guam.

Project Narrative: The design was technically complex and featured an innovative geologic investigation performed by Sherman White and Jeff Wheaton. The three tiered gabion toe wall securing the reconstructed slope is anchored 23 feet back into the fill with epoxy coated rebar. The design was completed by PIA West engineering staff with geotechnical assistance from Benjamin C. Doerge, P.E. of the National Design, Construction and Soil Mechanics Center of Fort Worth, TX. Construction was completed by Maeda Pacific Inc under a Federal Construction Contract. Construction Inspection and Contract Administration by PIA West engineering staff and the PIA Administrative Services Staff of Honolulu, respectively.

Nimitz Hill Landslide Stabilization (West)

The completed Nimitz Hill Landslide Stabilization EWP project as viewed from the top of the slope reconstructed of stable materials. Some of the residences protected from possible ensuing landslides are shown at the top of the photo. Three diversions constructed of cast in place fiber reinforced concrete break up the slope length to minimize erosion of the crushed coral backfill can be seen running on the contour across the finished face of the fill.

Nimitz Hill Landslide Stabilization project as viewed from the area now protected from future slides. The concrete diversions and lined waterway which manage surface runoff to allow the finished surface to naturally revegetate with volunteer native species.

Nimitz Hill Landslide Stabilization project viewed from midslope looking to the southwest. Homes shown are at the end of a cul de sac which would have lost access from any further sliding of the unstable material in the hill. Diversions and lined waterway breaking up the slope to reduce sheet and rill erosion can be seen on the finished face of the reconstructed slope.

Project Narrative: The landslide resulting from typhoon Tinging left a hazard to the street and houses on both sides of it as well as the possibility of future slides affecting homes above the slope. The design was technically complex. An extensive geologic investigation and analysis of the slide and the causes of it was required before a design to remove the threat to nearby properties could be developed. Investigation, analysis, and design were performed by the NRCS National Design, Construction and Soil Mechanics Center of Fort Worth, TX in cooperation with the NRCS PIA West engineering staff. Assistance in the geologic investigation was provided by the Territory of Guam Department of Homeland Security (Department of Civil Defense). Early immediate action to relieve impounded water behind the slope was taken by Government of Guam with technical assistance by NRCS. The original estimate for construction was $1.7 million dollars. The final contract cost was $1.26 million dollars. Hawaiian Rock Products of Mangilao, GU was the prime contractor. Significant portions of the work were subcontracted to Shimuzu Construction. The project featured excavation of 22,000 cubic Yards of unstable soil; 35,000 Tons of crushed coral backfill; 2,210 Tons of gravel drain material; 208 cubic yards of gabion baskets for a revetment and significant subsurface drainage to eliminate the deep seepage that contributed to the slope instability. The design was completed by PIA West engineering staff with geotechnical assistance from . This was a Federal Construction Contract. Construction Inspection was performed by the PIA West engineering staff with assistance from Benjamin C. Doerge, P.E. of the National Design, Construction and Soil Mechanics Center of Fort Worth, TX and the Contract Administration was by the NRCS PIA Administrative Services Staff of Honolulu, Hi and Sacramento, CA.

Resource Conservation & Development Program

The Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Program encourages and improves the capabilities of volunteer local leaders to plan and carry out projects for resource conservation and community development purposes. In fiscal year 2008, the Pacific Islands Area RC&D Councils and partners assisted in the development of 6 watershed or area-wide plans addressing important local natural resource concerns, and were involved in the creation or retention of 109 local businesses that benefited land and water resources on 293 acres.

In addition, RC&D administers the Agricultural Development Program (ADP) in the state of Hawaii. This program provides special congressional funding to support community-based projects that promote agricultural development in the state. Its purpose is to increase and sustain soil and water conservation needs, enrich the capabilities of local farmers and ranchers, and help ensure agricultural enterprises achieve long-term sustainability. In fiscal year 2008, we received $709,995 with about 80% of funding made available to the public for sustainable agricultural projects while program overhead costs (salaries, training and other costs) have been approximately 20%.

	# of Applicants	# of Projects Funded	Amount of Project Funding
Big Island	21	8	$133,225
Kauai	17	6	$121,501
Oahu	21	4	$128,000
Maui/ Lanai	6	5	$120,000
Molokai	17	12	$44,000
TOTAL	82	35	$546,726

Organized RC&D Councils provide assistance to island communities across the Pacific Islands Area. Designated RC&D Areas in the Pacific Islands Area include:

- American Samoa RC&D – Territory of American Samoa
- Big Island RC&D – Hawaii County
- Garden Island RC&D – Kauai County
- Mariana RC&D – Guam, Rota, Tinian, and Saipan
- Oahu RC&D – City and County of Honolulu
- Tri-Isle RC&D – Maui County (Islands of Maui, Molokai, and Lanai)

In addition, the Federated States of Micronesia requested designation as an RC&D Area and are awaiting USDA approval.

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USDA NATURAL RESOURCES
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Helping People Help the Land

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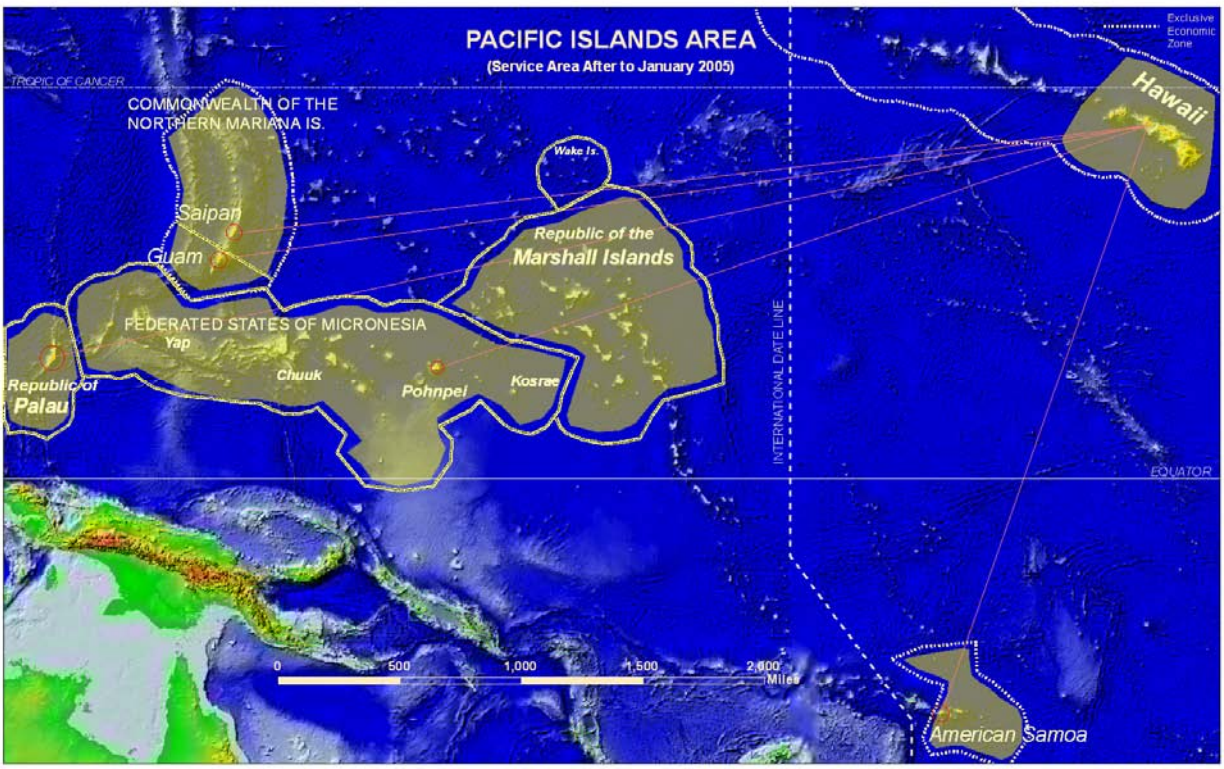
The Natural Resources Conservation Service partners with Conservation Districts and others to provide technical and some cost-share assistance to private landowners. Our main goal is to protect, enhance, and preserve our soil, water, air, plants, and animals using sound science and expertise. Participation in our programs is voluntary.

The approval of the reorganization of the Hawaii and the Pacific Basin Area operations into the new PACIFIC ISLANDS AREA, was signed January 6, 2006. Our area of coverage includes:

East Area:

- State of Hawaii
- Territory of American Samoa

West Area (formerly Pacific Basin Area):

- Territory of Guam
- Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
- Federated States of Micronesia
- Republic of Palau
- Republic of the Marshall Islands