



West Maui Soil & Water Conservation District  
P.O. Box 2993, Wailuku, HI 96793

**January 3, 2018**  
**TESTIMONY**  
**CHAPTER 20.08, MAUI COUNTY CODE,**  
**RELATING TO SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL (LU-47)**

Chair Carroll and Members of the Land Use Committee:

My name is James Nobriga. I am a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation rancher and the Chairman of the West Maui Soil and Water Conservation District. I am here before you today, representing the 5 Maui County Soil & Water Conservation Districts which includes Molokai-Lanai. We strongly support LU-47 clarifying the conditions associated with grading and grubbing permits in Maui County.

The Soil and Water Conservation Districts represent the best in public private partnerships. It involves Federal, State and County interests working together with volunteers such as myself, on the ground, to implement measures to protect our natural resources. State law authorized the creation of the Districts under the Department of Land and Natural Resources back in 1947 during my dad's time. They required Counties to develop Ordinances to manage soil and water erosion in cooperation with the SWCDs. My dad and Chair Carroll were part of this process that is now Maui Code chapter 20.08.03 and 20.08.080.

We traditionally have worked with the Planning Department and Public Works along with the permittees to ensure that the conditions of the grading and grubbing permits carry out the intent of protecting Maui's soil and water resources. Times have changed and many no longer know or have knowledge of this unique partnership. Procedures taken for granted now need to be articulated. This measure requires the permittee to seriously consider the District recommendations and go through a process to ensure that the final permit application incorporates best management practices to protect Maui's soil and water resources. We defer any review of cultural resources for grading and grubbing reviews to the State Historic Preservation Division.

Maui SWCDs respectfully request your support of this measure. Our conservation specialist is also available as a resource. Thank you for this opportunity to provide our opinion on this matter.