



2010 Annual Report

O'AHU RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
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The O'ahu RC&D Council is a community-based non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Our mission is to improve the quality of life of the people of O'ahu by encouraging and assisting local leadership to develop and carry out activities that conserve and sustain our natural, human, cultural and economic resources.

***Our Vision:
A healthy and vibrant island built around strong communities.***

The Council is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors representing all areas of Oahu as well as the three Oahu Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the City and County of Honolulu. The Board governs the policy, direction and activities of the O'ahu RC&D.

2010 Summary

It's been an exciting year for the O'ahu RC&D. We launched ten new projects addressing watershed protection, agricultural tourism, conservation easements, and agricultural development. We wrapped up three agricultural development and vetiver projects, and we continued ongoing efforts including cover crop promotion, watershed management, agribusiness training, and agricultural development.



View of Koolau Mountains

With support from the Hawaii Community Foundation and others, we reviewed, evaluated, and ultimately modified our by-laws to streamline organizational decision-making. We changed our accounting structure from a cash basis to accrual to more accurately reflect our financial health. And we began to diversify our revenue sources to strengthen our organization and our partners.

In an effort to diversify and extend our reach, we established partnerships as fiscal sponsor for three conservation and education organizations. Malama Hawaii, Hawaii Community Stewardship Network, and PONO each do important conservation work in our community. More information about these partners and their work is available on our website.

Together with you and many others, we have made a substantial impact on our island home, protecting valuable natural resources, assisting farmers and supporting rural communities

Protecting the Environment

Watershed Management: The Waimanalo Watershed Project got into full swing, with six cooperators installing about \$100,000 worth of practices to reduce erosion and protect local streams. A stream clean-up attracted hundreds of residents, and two field days served 112 participants. We launched a new watershed initiative in Honouliuli, meeting with landowners and soliciting proposals for 2011 projects.

Land Management: In addition to work with dozens of farmers and developing conservation plans for the Soil and Water Conservation District, we completed two projects promoting vetiver grass for slope stabilization and erosion control, and continued work to promote cover crops to protect soils, reduce weeds and pests, and conserve water resources. An agronomic report and cover crop planting guides (in five languages) were used to share land management technologies.

Land Conservation: We convened two workshops on conservation easements to educate land owners and land managers about important tools to ensure long-term conservation of agricultural and conservation lands.



Supporting Rural Communities

Agricultural Business Development: In 2010, we distributed almost \$200,000 through the Agricultural Development Program to help small Oahu farms expand and strengthen their operations.

We provided development grants to ten agricultural businesses ranging from a dairy in Waianae to an aquaponics facility in Mililani to a family farm in Kahuku. Collectively, the projects created seven new jobs, reduced water and chemical use and costs, and led to substantial expansions in production and operations.

We continued to disseminate the *Oahu Agribusiness Guidebook* through workshops and classes, and via free download from our website.

Agricultural Tourism: We worked with farmers and agri-tourism industry experts to explore industry challenges on Oahu. The newly produced *Oahu Agritourism Guidebook* provides valuable information to farmers interested in developing an agritourism program for visitors and Hawaii residents.

Working with Partners

O`ahu RC&D has a long history of working with community partners to achieve goals larger than we can manage alone. This year, we extended our partnerships to a new level and now provide administrative support to three innovative community groups.

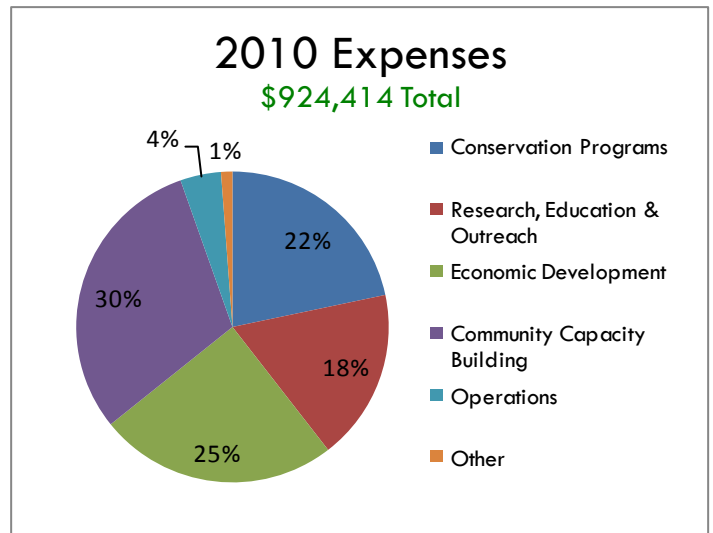
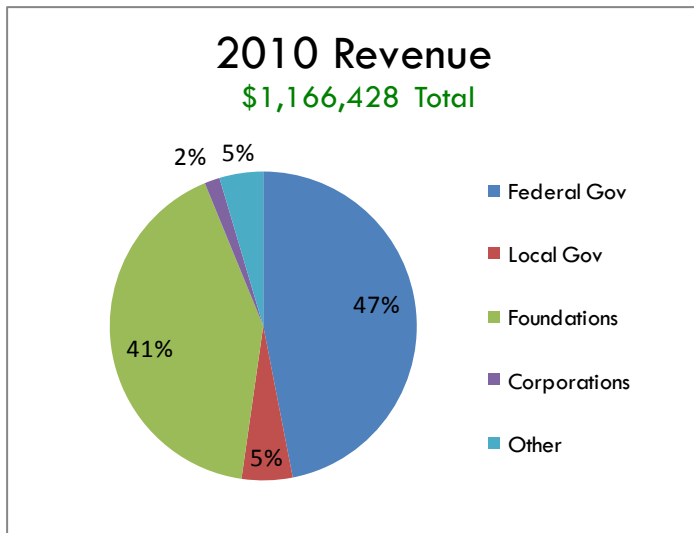
Hawaii Community Stewardship Network empowers communities to care for their natural heritage. They convened more than 25 organizations to share strategies to create self-sufficient ahupua`a, launched a story-telling project addressing lessons learned, and helped two communities develop management plans for Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Areas.



Malama Hawaii, in partnership with the Polynesian Voyaging Society, created a 3-minute video entitled *Navigators of the Future* to promote the Hokule`a Worldwide Voyage, and continued outreach and education for the Ka`ena Point Ecosystem Restoration Project, utilizing the first predator-proof fence in the United States.

PONO, an organization dedicated to the recovery of the endangered Hawaiian monk seal, promoted inclusion of the monk seal in the revision of the Hawaii Humpback Whale Sanctuary and supported a science-based strategy for the seal's recovery.

The O'ahu RC&D saw a marked growth in the size and stability of the annual budget in 2010. Program delivery achieved a high level of efficiency, with more than 95% of our annual expenses going directly to program delivery and services. The 2010 Annual Campaign launched a charitable giving program to diversify revenue sources and strengthen financial health. More modest growth is projected for 2011, as we continue to develop partnerships and diversify revenue.



Note: \$242,014 in Revenue from 2010 is restricted for use in 2011.

2010 O'ahu RC&D impact, by the numbers...

- \$198,132 invested in agricultural development projects on Oahu
- \$70,000 invested in conservation implementation in Waimanalo
- 900 subscribers receiving 4 informative e-bulletins
- 285 participants at 8 conservation field days
- 150 tires and 105 car batteries collected
- 149 people attending 6 workshops
- 120 farm visits providing technical assistance
- 12 outreach events reaching hundreds
- 7 agricultural development projects initiated
- 4 agricultural development projects completed
- 2 informative DVDs produced and distributed
- 3 new fiscal sponsor partnerships
- 1 website remodeled and updated
- 1 Vetiver Agronomic Report

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