## **United States Department of Agriculture**



Natural Resources Conservation Service PO Box 50004 Honolulu, HI 96850 808-541-2600

Agricultural Producers interested in establishing or maintain pollinator habitat have many options available. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offers both technical and financial assistance. Technical assistance can help producers select the right plants to attract pollinators that will enhance their operations or wildlife areas. The NRCS also offers financial assistance through different Farm Bill programs, each with its unique set of benefits. This allows the producer to select the program that best fits their operational goals.

In the PIA, pollinators provide multiple benefits. Pollinators not only enable agricultural crops to produce a harvestable product (cucurbits, tomatoes, eggplant, mangoes, lychee etc.) but they also allow our native plants to set seeds in order to maintain habitat for our native animals. Pollinators include native and managed insects such as honeybees, but also our native birds and, outside of Hawaii, the native fruit bats of the Marianas and American Samoa.

Programs offered by NRCS that can help establish, maintain, or improve pollinator habitat include: Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), Grassland Reserve Program (GRP), and the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). <u>Applications are currently being accepted for this year's funding consideration.</u> To find out more about these programs, producers are encouraged to visit the NRCS website at: <a href="http://www.pia.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/">http://www.pia.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/</a>, or contact their local NRCS field office. To find a field office nearest you, please visit the following website: <a href="http://www.pia.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/index.html">http://www.pia.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/index.html</a>.

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Plant species such as the *Mucuna* gigantea, a native liana in the Mariana Islands, provides habitat which will help to support the return of fruit bats. Photo Credit: USDA\_NRCS Pacific Islands Area

Helping People Help the Land