

Personal Testimony Presented before the
House Committee on Higher Education
March 27, 2008
2:15 p.m.
by
Raymond Uchida

HCR 116/ HR 99

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AGRICULTURAL DIAGNOSTIC SERVICE CENTER, IN CONSULTATION WITH OTHER PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ENTITIES, TO CARRY OUT A SURVEY OF INFORMATION NEEDS OF HAWAII'S AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY, AND ASSESS WHETHER THE HAWAII AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION CENTER CAN MEET THE INFORMATION NEEDS OF HAWAII'S AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY.

Chair Chang, Vice Chair Bertram, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Raymond Uchida, and I am the Manager/Director of the UH-ADSC and the County Administrator for Oahu with the University of Hawaii at Manoa's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR). I am pleased to provide personal testimony on HCR116/ HR 99. This testimony does not represent the position of the University of Hawaii or CTAHR.

On behalf of UH-ADSC in CTAHR, I strongly support this resolution as it clearly supports the agricultural community of Hawaii. Presently, the UH-ADSC uses the Fertility Advice and Consulting System (FACS) to provide fertilizer recommendation to the agricultural industry as well as to homeowners. By incorporating the database that will be provided by the Hawaii Agricultural Information Center (HAIC), we will be able to provide Hawaii's farmers with a more complete fertilizer recommendation, which will not only improve productivity, but will also be environmentally friendly. The recommendation will also provide weather data, like long-term rainfall and temperature pattern, which are critical in seasonal crop farming.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.

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Wayne Nishijima

HCR 116/ HR 99

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Chair Chang, Vice Chair Bertram, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Wayne Nishijima, and I am the Associate Dean and Associate Director for Cooperative Extension, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR). I am pleased to provide personal testimony on HCR116/HR 99. This testimony does not represent the position of the University of Hawai'i or CTAHR.

I strongly support this resolution because an assessment of the information needs of the agricultural industry and how the Hawai'i Agricultural Information Center can meet their needs are an important first step in addressing the issue of providing timely, accurate and comprehensive information to the modern day farmer so they compete successfully in today's global economy.

By first getting stakeholder feedback and input, the informational needs of the farmer can be used to develop the concept of the Hawaii Agricultural Information Center so that is more relevant, useful, timely, and simple.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.