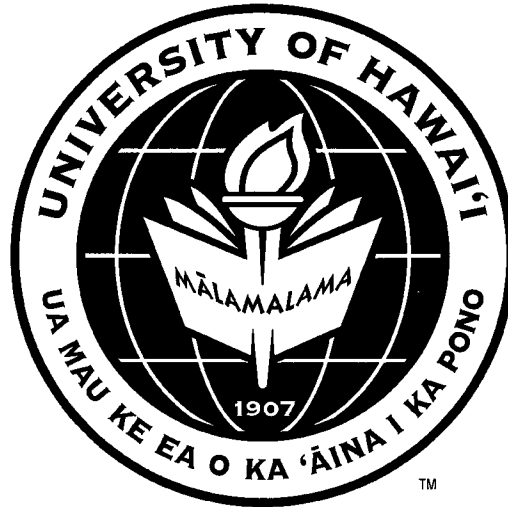


UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY



SB2640 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs
Senate Committee on Education

February 8, 2008 at 1:15 p.m.

by
Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor
Presented by
Andrew G. Hashimoto, Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

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SB 2640 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Tokuda, Chair Sakamoto, and Members of the Committees:

The University of Hawai'i supports Senate Bill 2640, which makes an appropriation to the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) for the acquisition of land for its agricultural business incubator, its Poamoho field station, and other needs.

We strongly support SB 2640 but request the language be amended by modifying the two paragraphs beginning on page 3, line 16 through page 4, line 4 with the following:

The legislature finds that the ~~acquisition of the subject land for usage by~~ synergies provided by the above mentioned programs of the University of Hawaii, college of tropical agriculture and human resources co-locating at the Kunia site will further the State's responsibility to promote diversified agriculture and increased agricultural self-sufficiency.

SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State Hawai'i the sum of \$ _____ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 ~~for the acquisition of agricultural land and related improvements of use~~ to cover the expenses incurred by the University of Hawai'i, college of tropical agriculture and human resources to move the Agribusiness Incubator and Poamoho Station projects and personnel to the Kunia site.

Today we have a unique opportunity to support diversified agriculture on O'ahu. A land owner is willing to contribute to the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center (HARC) approximately 119 acres of land adjacent to Kunia Road plus worker housing and office facilities. HARC, the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, the Agricultural Leadership Foundation of Hawaii, and the Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii are interested in co-locating their operations at this site to share business-related resources and develop synergies and economies of scale. CTAHR is also interested in locating some of its programs at this site, including the Agribusiness Incubator Program currently housed at the Mānoa campus, the Poamoho Research Station, and some extension services.

Large and small agribusinesses have also expressed interest in establishing long-term leases and locating and expanding their businesses at this location.

In the heart of Central O'ahu's agricultural lands, we can create a remarkable synergy by bringing together large and small agricultural businesses, public and private non-profit research programs, organizations that advocate for the agricultural community, and a business incubator dedicated to helping agribusiness ventures of all sizes establish and expand. Creating this agricultural business complex will facilitate close, sustained collaboration between researchers and outreach providers and the stakeholders they serve. Being closer and more accessible to our clients will promote greater interaction and more effective service, and developing demonstration plantings that are easy for our clients to visit will expand opportunities for hands-on training.

Locating the Agribusiness Incubator Program at this agricultural business complex will make it easier for start-ups and established businesses to benefit from consulting and product development services they might not otherwise be able to access. The National Business Incubator Association reports that 87 percent of enterprises developed in an incubator environment survive their first five years, compared with only 25 percent of those developed without the benefits of incubation.

The current site of the Poamoho Research Station is less suitable than the proposed new site for agricultural research activities. The disadvantages of the current site include vulnerability to fire and agricultural theft, each of which can destroy years of research in a few minutes. Much of the station's acreage was burned by brushfires in fall 2007, and the highway that bisects the station makes it easier for thieves to gain access. Irrigation costs at the current site are also high.

CTAHR researchers and extension faculty, their colleagues at HARC, and their cooperators in industry all stand to gain from co-locating. The resulting agricultural advances and the development of new entrepreneurial businesses will also help our economy and environment. As our state's most populous island, O'ahu faces considerable demographic pressure to build housing on usable, undeveloped land. High land values coupled with the decline of the sugarcane and pineapple industries have put many thousands of acres of O'ahu's important agricultural lands at risk. Keeping these lands in farming will encourage the continued growth of a diverse agriculture in Hawai'i. By producing food near our state's largest market for agricultural products and minimizing the fuel needed to transport that food to consumers, Hawai'i agriculture—and O'ahu agriculture in particular—contributes to greater food security and sustainability. The development of bioenergy resources holds promise for decreasing our reliance on costly imported petroleum and lessening our greenhouse gas emissions. I believe that the scientific and commercial opportunities made possible by SB 2640 will benefit not only O'ahu but all of Hawai'i.

For these reasons, we strongly support SB 2640 with the amendments proposed above.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Hawaii
Crop
Improvement
Association

Sarah Styan, President
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Testimony by: Sarah Styan
SB2640, Relating to the University of Hawaii
Senate AHW/EDU Committees
Friday, Feb. 8, 2008
Room 225: 1:15 pm

Position: Support

Chairs Tokuda and Sakamoto, and Members of the Senate AHW/EDU
Committees:

My name is Sarah Styan. I am a Kauai resident, President of HCIA and research scientist of Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Waimea Research Station. The HCIA represents seed production and research facilities operating in Hawaii for nearly 40 years. The HCIA is comprised of five member companies that farm an estimated 8,000 acres on four islands, valued at \$97.6 million in operating budget (2006/2007 HASS). We are proud members of Hawaii's diversified agriculture and life sciences industries.

HCIA strongly supports this measure that recognizes the rare opportunity for multiple agencies (HFBF, HARC, ALFH, UH-CTAHR and Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii) to not only work together, but co-locate their operations at the proposed site. This synergy will assist, and create new opportunities for the growth of Hawaii agriculture. The co-location of CTAHR's field support functions for the agricultural incubator and moving its Poamoho station to that area makes sense, as the former Del Monte lands are the most fertile agricultural lands on Oahu. The support of this endeavor does much to preserve agricultural lands on Oahu.

Please seize the opportunity and support this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.

Testimony for Senate Bill 2640
Hearing at 2pm on February 8, 2008

Chairs Tokuda and Sakamoto and Members of your Committees:

My name is Larry Jefts

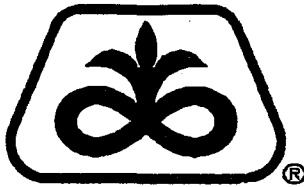
I support Senate Bill 2640 Relating to University of Hawaii

As indicated in the proposed bill a significant opportunity has been provided to the agricultural community regarding the Del Monte village which includes agricultural worker rental housing and industrial facilities. There is over 11,000 sq ft of existing administration space in one of the buildings and several agricultural support organizations have already committed to co-locate in this facility. There are several acres surrounding this property on which to co-locate CTAHR's field support functions for the agricultural incubator and its experimental farm. The funds are to support some renovation of the facilities, moving personnel and field preparation and security.

I am also interested in securing some of the industrial space and have made a commitment to provide some funding to help match the Economic Development Administration application for renovation money for this site.

This is a rare opportunity for agriculture to have support infrastructure available with long tenure available.

I urge you to pass Senate Bill 2640 and thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.
Cindy Goldstein, Ph. D.

SB 2640

Relating to University of Hawaii and acquisition of a parcel of agricultural land
Senate AHW/EDU Committees
Friday, Feb 8, 2008
Room 225; 1:15 pm

**Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. supports Senate Bill 2640,
relating to University of Hawaii and acquisition of a parcel of agricultural land.**

Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. recognizes the importance of valuable farmland staying in agricultural production in Central Oahu. This bill provides a mechanism for various agriculture interests including the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center, agricultural organizations and UH CTAHR functions, to come together and share resources, enabling the formation of an agricultural center on Oahu. This unique opportunity has the potential to benefit Hawaii's agriculture organizations statewide. The proposed bill would also support the unique and timely opportunity provided to HARC regarding the Del Monte village which includes agricultural worker rental housing and industrial facilities.

The site offers existing space that could house agricultural organizations in one place, facilitating strengthened communications and the sharing of resources. There are also several acres surrounding this property that are well suited for CTAHR functions including the agricultural incubator and its experimental farm.

Funding would go a long way to ensure this opportunity is not lost and to enhance Hawaii's agriculture community. Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. thanks the Hawaii legislature for this opportunity to support all of Hawaii's agriculture sectors.



LATE

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February 8, 2008

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
AND
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

SB 2640

RELATING TO UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Tokuda and Chair Sakamoto and Members of the Committees:

My name is Alan Takemoto and I am the Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation.

The Farm Bureau supports SB 2640, which makes an appropriation to CTAHR to move its agricultural business incubator, its Poamoho field station, and other needs. The HARC is planning to purchase or lease the land that is the former Delmonte worker and industrial site in Kunia, Oahu. The discussion is that HARC will partner with several organizations including CTAHR to accommodate their needs. Farm Bureau also is seriously looking at moving its offices to this area as well. This area has great potential to satisfy a large portion of our office space, ag worker housing, processing facilities and industrial needs. The infrastructure is invaluable as we can utilize the existing structures and housing for agricultural operations in the area.

Thank you for allowing us to testify in support of this measure.