

**Hawaii  
Crop  
Improvement  
Association**

Sarah Styan, President  
P.O. Box 609  
Waimea, Hawaii 96796  
Phone: 808- 338-8300 ext 113

---

Testimony by: Sarah Styan  
SB2853, Relating to Science and Technology  
Senate EDT/EDU Committees  
Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2008  
Room 224: 9:15 am

Position: Support

Chairs Fukunaga and Sakamoto, and Members of the Senate EDT/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.

The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association supports funding of this unique program, which encourages Hawaii's junior high and high school students to explore science and engineering, and provides recognition for achievement by our youth in the area of science and technology. As Hawaii looks at ways to diversify the economy, and develop our science and technology sector that offers higher paying jobs, support of a program that encourages students to develop an interest in science goes hand-in-hand with these goals.

The seed industry, as is the case for many technology companies, are finding it difficult to fill science and technology jobs. We look at and support a range of ways to encourage more of Hawaii's young people to pursue studies and jobs in science and technology to meet our needs for employees.

The financial assistance requested directly benefits Hawaii's junior high and high school students and teachers with an interest in science and engineering. Appropriation of funds for administration and operation of the Hawaii Academy of Sciences programs will do much to ensure this well regarded program will not come to an end due to lack of funds.

We as a society recognize and applaud student athletes for their hard work and commitment. The Hawaii Academy of Science programs do the same, rewarding and encouraging students in the fields of science and technology. The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association sees this is an excellent opportunity to encourage the students of today to prepare for good living wage jobs in the future. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

## testimony

---

**From:** Kevin Kelly [kevink@hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 07, 2008 7:06 AM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TAXATION, February 12, 2008, 9:15 a.m.,  
Conference Room 224

Chair Fukunaga, Chair Sakamoto, and members of the committees,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of SB2853. Over the years I have personally had the opportunity to observe and participate in many of the activities of the Hawaii Academy of Science, especially the Hawaii State Science & Engineering Fair. This organization has been active in supporting STEM education in Hawaii long before it became the pressing need it is today. Furthermore, their activities contribute directly to positive outcomes in workforce development and economic diversification in Hawaii and I strongly support additional appropriations for HAS.

Sincerely,  
Kevin Kelly  
Kahuku