



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
January 27, 2011
8:30 A.M.

HOUSE BILL NO. 2100
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2100. This bill proposes to appropriate \$10,000 to the University of Hawaii at Hilo (UHH) for the development of a new bee hive research area at the University's farm in Panaewa.

The Hawai'i Department of Agriculture supports the intent of the bill but would like to see the language of the bill modified slightly. Small hive beetle arrived in the state in 2010 and has already been detected on the Big Island, Maui, Moloka'i, and O'ahu. It has added another major management problem for beekeepers, who are still trying to cope with the arrival of varroa mite in 2007. Small hive beetle is not easily controlled by chemicals and current trapping methods are messy, expensive, and labor intensive.



The Department agrees that this research is important but believes that funding should be equitably distributed across the state and proposes that \$10,000 be allocated to each of the following regions: Hilo, Kona, Maui Nui, O'ahu, and Kaua'i. In addition to UHH, two other established groups are currently working on the small hive beetle problem in Hawai'i: UH Manoa's Honeybee Project and HDOA's Apiary Program, which is currently funded through USDA. The Department suggests that this expanded funding be administered through the University of Hawai'i, with HDOA authorized to provide input on how it is spent. It is anticipated that this approach would develop an enhanced working relationship between these three groups and prevent duplication of efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



Hawaii Farm Bureau
F E D E R A T I O N

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LATE TESTIMONY

JANUARY 27, 2012

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 2100
RELATING TO BEES

Room 312
9:00 AM

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Hashem, and Members of the Committee:

I am Mae Nakahata, Government Affairs Co-chair for the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF). Organized since 1948, the HFBF is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interest of our diverse agricultural community.

HFBF supports HB 2100, which appropriates \$10,000 to the University of Hawaii at Hilo (UH-Hilo) to develop a new bee hive research area in Panaewa.

Honey bee problems are problems for all of us since many local crops are pollinated by bees. If we are unable to control pests and diseases that harm our honey bees, Hawaii's Agriculture Industry may suffer lower production and quality in tomatoes, melons, and cucumbers as well as coffee, avocado, macadamia nuts, and citrus.

We support UH-Hilo's efforts to advance their honey bee research activities, and we encourage that they collaborate their honey bee research efforts with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture and the University of Hawaii's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources.

Thank you for this opportunity to address this important issue. If there are questions, please contact Brian Miyamoto, Chief Operating Officer and Government Affairs Liaison at (808) 848-2074.



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BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
January 27, 2011
8:30 A.M.

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2093
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION**

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2093. This bill proposes to:

(1) Establish a Center for Agricultural Leadership that is responsible for developing the next generation of agricultural leaders and conducting activities, including pilot projects and demonstration projects to improve agricultural education in the State; and

(2) Establish within the Center for Agricultural Leadership a two-year pilot project at one high school campus in each county to determine the steps necessary for school farms to achieve food safety certification by the Department of Agriculture and provide fresh local produce to Hawaii's school cafeterias.

The Department supports the intent of the bill. The Department supports agricultural education and is partnering with the University of Hawaii (UH) to develop guidelines for good agricultural practices (GAP) for school gardens and farms. However, the Department does wish to point out that additional resources may be needed to fully implement the intent of the bill. Additionally, we would want to defer to UH for further guidance.



Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Kathy Kato

L A T E T E S T I M O N Y

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2012 6:53 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: nredfeather@kohalacenter.org
Subject: Testimony for HB2093 on 1/27/2012 8:30:00 AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Testimony for AGR 1/27/2012 8:30:00 AM HB2093

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Nancy Redfeather
Organization: Hawaii Island School Garden Network/Kohala Center
E-mail: nredfeather@kohalacenter.org
Submitted on: 1/26/2012

Comments:

LATE TESTIMONY

TESTIMONY FOR HB 2093

Relating to Agricultural Education

Chairman Tsuji, members of the House Committee on Agriculture, thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 2093.

While I respect the comprehensive intent of the legislation I have some concerns about the financing of this legislation because of current economic conditions facing the state. At the recent workforce development conference at Hilo, Hawaii, I had the opportunity to participate in the agricultural education group. It was my impression everyone fully supported the critical need for a comprehensive educational approach to develop a responsive agricultural workforce, they had a definite lean towards strengthening existing resources i.e. schools (public, private, and charter) with existing agricultural programs; youth development programs such as 4H, FFA, Boys & Girls, Charter Schools. On the island of Hawaii, We have school farms at Kohala High School, Waiakea High School, and Kalaniana'ole Intermediate and Elementary, and a number of charter school. They all need help. Our discussion group also wanted to repair the disconnects with our Kapunas who had considerable knowledge and experience in agriculture production and management. We felt they could help our schools.

An immediate goal in agricultural education is to encourage the University of Hawaii CTAHR to expand summer internship opportunities in the rural counties in all phases of rural community development, and agricultural education. This would provide our college students with meaningful employment and agricultural work experience.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2093.

MICHAEL C. TULANG

Chairman Hawaii State 4H Livestock Council

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony for HB 2093

Relating to Agricultural Education

Chairman Tsuji, members of the House Committee on Agriculture, thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 2093.

I congratulate you for understanding that the only way we are going to have sustainable agriculture or sustainable anything is to prepare our youth through education. My entire career has been spent working with youth education, primarily with 4-H, the non-formal youth development program of the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. I strongly support FFA and other youth organizations you have written into the bill but I was a bit perplexed because 4-H was not mentioned although it is already part of CTAHR. USDA has delegated the responsibility for 4-H to CTAHR.

4-H has been in Hawaii since 1918. It is one of the oldest educational systems in the U.S. having celebrated one hundred years of service in 2002. Young people in 4-H learn about production agriculture by participating in producing an agricultural product. That product might be a cabbage, carrot, lamb, mango, pig or a steer. 4-H was designed to keep young people interested in learning because they learn by getting involved in doing something active from which they learn a skill they can use for life. Agriculture is the dominant subject in our curriculum that includes nearly 100 fields of study.

4-H is dedicated to forming productive and contributing members of our society through the growth of individual skills and talents, hands-on-experiences, and sound values. 4-H is an effective solution to achieve personal development of the individual while maintaining interaction with peers and respect for the environment. The ultimate aim is to support young people to make the best out of what they have by discovering and exploring their unique personal attributes and their positive characteristics.

Research attests to the value of 4-H. After a five year study that included more than 500,000 young people involved in 4-H and other out of school youth organizations Tufts University released some statistics that tell the 4-H story with data. 4-H participants had better grades, were more behaviorally engaged with school, and were more likely to see themselves going to college. 4-H youth are more than twice as likely to contribute to their communities as those who participated in other Out-of-School-Time activities. In general 4-H participants are higher on measures for positive development and educational outcomes.

As you consider this bill, I ask that you consider the existing opportunities like 4-H which, as I said is already a part of CTAHR, and which may have been under-resourced for many years. Consider the fact that Hawaii 4-H has grown considerably for the past three years, but is still at only about one-fifth of its potential before creating new cost centers that may be difficult to support long term because of current economic conditions. The more than 10,000 4-H members across the state and the scores of adult leaders who support them will be ready to join you in improving agricultural education through "Learning by Doing to Make the Best Better".

Again, thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2093.

Gary L. Heusel
State 4-H Leader
University of Hawaii - Manoa