



State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
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TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

JANUARY 23, 2014  
9:30 A.M.  
ROOM 312

HOUSE BILL NO. 1536  
RELATING TO FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Wooley and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill No. 1536. The purpose of this measure is to implement selected recommendations of the “Increased Food Security and Food Self-Sufficiency Strategy” (“Strategy”) report issued by the Office of Planning in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture, by creating within Chapter 141, an agricultural development and food security program within the Department of Agriculture. The Department of Agriculture supports the intent of this measure provided that the funding for implementation of the programs does not adversely affect the administration’s proposed budget. We would also defer to the University of Hawaii, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources in regards to their role in an on-farm mentoring program.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide our testimony on this measure.





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Dr. Monique Mironesco  
Associate Professor, Political Science, UHWO  
[mironesc@hawaii.edu](mailto:mironesc@hawaii.edu)

Dear Representatives:

Thank you for giving the public the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of HB 1536. As an academic, I have been researching food politics issues and teaching a class I created by the same name for seven years now. This past September, the Council of Chief Academic Officers (CCAO) at UH voted to approve an authorization to plan (ATP) a new program entitled “Sustainable Community Food Systems” (SCFS) at the University of Hawai‘i, West O‘ahu. The program is current in a “proposed” status and we anticipate authorization of the full proposal for the SCFS program this spring/summer 2014.

There are currently two faculty members working on this program:

1. Dr. Monique Mironesco, Associate Professor, Political Science, University of Hawai‘i, West O‘ahu. I have been the faculty lead on the development of the SCFS concentration to date. I have also taught a range of Political Science classes on the topics of food and agriculture, including the Politics of Food, a core course in the proposed SCFS program.
2. Dr. Albie Miles, Assistant Professor, University of Hawai‘i, West O‘ahu. Dr. Miles is teaching a range of natural science and social science courses in the proposed SCFS program.

Currently, the program receives NO state funding. Dr Mironesco received extramural funding from Kamehameha Schools’ ‘Aina-Based Education Division in the sum of \$132,816.00 (FY 13-14); \$150, 832 (FY 14-15) to provide funding for 1 FTE for the program. While there is a possibility of renewal, this source of funding is based on an outside organization and is not guaranteed. The fact that state funds do not currently sustain this program is evidence that the state is not currently supporting the development of research, training and education to grow young farmers and leaders in the agriculture sector. I believe that at the very least, section 15 of HB 1536 has the potential to rectify this situation and urge you to consider appropriating some permanent funding for this program so that we may be secure in playing an important role in helping guarantee Hawai‘i’s future food security.

We believe that funding for 2 FTEs for the SCFS program at UHWO, in addition to a budget of \$25K/year for laboratory materials for SCFS courses and \$30,000/year for a 1/2 time garden manager for UHWO Education and Demonstration Garden would be sufficient to recruit and train students to support the sustainable agriculture sector in a number of ways. We are currently seeking funds from the HMSA foundation to train and conduct Participatory Action Research (PAR) on community food security in West O‘ahu in collaboration with UH Manoa JABSOM.

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We are also developing the UHWO Organic Education and Demonstration Garden to serve as a site for experiential education in ecologically-based agriculture, horticulture and ethnobotany. The site will eventually provide connections to the school food system (e.g. produce and waste management) and provide public workshops on organic gardening, cooking and nutrition. The UHWO SCFS program is designed to serve the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander population in the West O'ahu region through innovative programming in sustainable agriculture that honors the host culture through the integrative study of traditional land use practices and modern empirical science. The entire curriculum is based on the integration of theoretical and applied learning opportunities toward solving real world problems. We have strong community partners, including MA'O Organic Farms, Kamehameha Schools, and the Hawai'i Alliance for Community Based Economic Development as well as strong academic linkages with graduate (MA) programs at UH Manoa, including CTAHR, Dept. of Political Science, Dept. of Urban and Regional Planning, Hawaiiinuiakea School of Knowledge, and the College of Education. All of these collaborative efforts have been made without any support from state funding. We believe that with at least some state funding, our efforts would likely go much further and we would be able to reach more underserved students in this critical are for Hawai'i's future food security.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Mironesco', is centered on a light yellow rectangular background.

Dr. Monique Mironesco

**onishi2-Micah-Seth**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 21, 2014 12:28 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** mendezj@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1536 on Jan 23, 2014 09:30AM\*

**HB1536**

Submitted on: 1/21/2014

Testimony for AGR on Jan 23, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**onishi2-Micah-Seth**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 21, 2014 3:22 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** lynhowe1946@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1536 on Jan 23, 2014 09:30AM

**HB1536**

Submitted on: 1/21/2014

Testimony for AGR on Jan 23, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lyn Howe	Individual	Support	No

Comments: These are excellent ideas we need to find as many ways possible to support local food programs and farms that are engaged in growing food for local sales. thank you

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