

onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 9:36 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: gottlieb@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB486 on Jan 31, 2013 09:00AM*

HB486

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for AGR on Jan 31, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Gottlieb	Hawaii Cattlemen's Council	Support	Yes

Comments:

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MONSANTO CO.
94-520 KUNIA ROAD
KUNIA, HAWAII 96759

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

January 31, 2012

TESTIMONY ON HB 486
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Aloha Chair Wooley, Vice Chair Onishi and members of the committee:

My name is Alan Takemoto, Community Affairs Manager for Monsanto Hawaii.

We **support** HB 486 which appropriates funds to operate and implement the Future Farmers of America (FFA) and 4-H programs.

The FFA and 4-H Programs provide an excellent educational leadership program that encourages our youth to prepare for a career in agriculture. Both programs educate our youth on the business and technical aspects of the agricultural industry. These programs incorporate the importance of science, technology, engineering and math concepts that all farmers and ranchers have to utilize in the application of a successful business operation.

Monsanto has strongly supported the FFA program on a national level for many years. We have sponsored the FFA national meetings as a demonstration and recognition of the importance of encouraging the development of our youth in the agricultural field. The future growth of the agricultural industry starts with these kinds of youth programs.

Monsanto have also been very active in supporting our local FFA programs in Hawaii as well. For the past 3 years, we have hosted the Oahu FFA district competition at our Kunia farm. Our employees also volunteered to be judges at the state FFA Conference. We also donated thousands of dollars to support the high school based programs that use these funds to construct and improve hydroponic systems, repair farm equipment, and purchase supplies and materials.

We have also supported the 4-H Livestock Program thru sponsorship and volunteerism. Our employees have volunteered to help set up the 4-H Livestock Show to showcase the animals raised by our youth to the general public. We have actively participated at the 4-H Livestock Auction to support those youth who gained the experience of both the business and practical experience of husbandry.

We respectfully ask for your support and passage of this measure.

Thank you.

Hawaii County 4-H Livestock Association
P.O. Box 1585
Honokaa, HI 96727

January 30, 2013

House Committee on Agriculture

Aloha Honorable Chair Wooley, Vice-Chair Onishi and Committee Members:

The lack of young people in agriculture is a critical issue not just locally, but nationally and even globally. It is becoming more and more apparent that we must strongly support agricultural education for our young people if we are to increase Hawai`i's resilience and sustainability. The 4-H program has a proven track record of not only exposing and educating young people to positive, hands on experience in agricultural production, but is also a program that instills leadership and life skills in a wide variety of other projects.

As the parents of present and past 4-H youth and volunteer club leaders we have experienced the value of the 4-H Livestock program and are committed to helping the 4-H livestock program continue and flourish into the future.

The FFA program similarly is a program with a proven track record that needs to be strongly supported if we are going to educate and encourage young people in the skills of sustainability and resilience.

Please support HB486 as a first step towards rebuilding the vitality of the 4-H and FFA programs.

Sincerely,

Ron McKeehan, President and Chair
Guy Galimba, Co-Chair
Michelle Galimba, Secretary

onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 11:20 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: Cgeballe@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB486 on Jan 31, 2013 09:00AM

HB486

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carole Geballe	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I have seen the positive value of the 4-H programs and am pleased to be a leader of a 5- 8 year old group focused on horses and horsemanship. please help strengthen the FFA and 4-H programs in Hawai'i.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 11:30 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: grelama1@msn.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB486 on Jan 31, 2013 09:00AM

HB486

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
May Navarro	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support HB486. The life and leadership skills learned by 4Hers help them to become mature, responsible and effective citizens and leaders of their community, country and the world. Thank you.

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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 10:44 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: nredfeather@kohalacenter.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB486 on Jan 31, 2013 09:00AM

HB486

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for AGR on Jan 31, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Redfeather	The Kohala Center	Support	No

Comments: FFA Programs have financially struggled in past years, because their legislative funding is tied to the "weighted student formula" at the DOE. Decoupling that funding and allocating it to "active FFA programs" would be a good start to rebuilding young farmer training programs. Our FFA teachers are dedicated and need real support for the development of their programs, that will only benefit all of our food futures. The 4-H Program has suffered extreme staff cuts in the last 10 years. Hawaii Island Staff has gone from 10 to 1.5 positions. It's hard to run a program without staff. This bill should specify a certain amount of funding for each of the programs and work with DOE to streamline funding from the Legislature to active high school programs.

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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 5:26 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: jeffrey_yamaguchi@notes.k12.hi.us
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB486 on Jan 31, 2013 09:00AM

HB486

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for AGR on Jan 31, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeff Yamaguchi	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: My name is Jeff Yamaguchi and I am the agriculture teacher at Mililani High School. I have been at MHS since the 1991-1992 school year. My comment/concern is that financially supporting the FFA and 4-H is not the entire solution. The need for quality and qualified secondary ag teachers is probably more pressing. Currently, there are not enough certified ag teachers for the high schools that still offer agriculture classes to their students. High schools have shut down their ag programs due to not being able to find a teacher. And the shortage will only get worse in the next few years. Right now, by my count, there are 12 ag teachers who started teaching in the 1980s and early 1990s. I know I plan to retire in 5 years, if I am financially able. I don't have the answer as to how we can recruit more ag teachers. UH-Manoa losing its accreditation for its CTE teacher education program makes a solution even harder to find. Maybe an incentive program like they had for math and science teachers a while ago is a starting point. Thank you for taking time to read this.

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