

SB 380

Testimony

Measure Title: RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION.

Report Title: Higher Education; Learning Center; Appropriation (\$)

Description: Provides funding for an outreach program to conduct a needs assessment for a potential learning center project in Puna under the college of agriculture, forestry, and natural resource management of the University of Hawaii at Hilo.

Companion: HB103

Package: None

Current Referral: HRE, WAM

Introducer(s): RUDERMAN, CHUN OAKLAND, IHARA, Baker, Espero, Gabbard, Keith-Agaran, Nishihara



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, February 12, 2013 at 3:30 p.m.

by

Dr. Bruce Mathews
Interim Dean and Professor of Soil Science
College of Agriculture, Forestry, and Natural Resource Management
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

SB 380 – RELATING HIGHER EDUCATION

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Kahele, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Bruce Mathews and I am Interim Dean and Professor of Soil Science & Agronomy in the College of Agriculture, Forestry, and Natural Resource Management (CAFNRM) at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. CAFNRM strongly supports SB380 to pursue a Higher Education Learning Center Project in the District of Puna, Hawai'i. SB380 will assist in identifying educational training needs and resources in Puna and strongly contribute to the rural region's economic revitalization efforts. The desired outcomes will be accomplished through sustainable agricultural production and value-added product development outreach for local markets coupled with a business incubator approach. This effort should also lead to increased enrollment in the agricultural programs offered by the University of Hawai'i System, more entrepreneurial farmers, improved cooperation among agricultural organizations, and a new generation of innovative and responsible agricultural leaders.

We appreciate the support of the legislature to strengthen rural outreach, economic development, and agricultural education while facilitating progress toward enhanced food security for Hawai'i. There is a critical need to strengthen the outreach capacity of CAFNRM as there is heavy demand relative to existing teaching faculty resources and their present duties. This rural learning center project could serve as an eventual model for other regions of Hawai'i facing similar challenges.

We envision the hiring of two outreach personnel to work as a team. One should have expertise in farm and agribusiness planning and management and the other complimentary position should emphasize expertise in sustainable crop production. Both would be expected to provide small-farm sustainable agriculture "boots on the ground" outreach services and short training courses on farm management, sustainable crop production, value-added food products, etc. Furthermore, the outreach personnel would be expected to survey Puna community educational and training needs for agricultural sector development and increase community engagement and participation in agriculture through various outreach forums (including an active website and blog).

We support this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Budget.

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
and the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
February 12, 2013 at 3:30 p.m.
by
Donald O. Straney, Ph.D.
Chancellor, University of Hawai'i at Hilo

SB380 Relating to Higher Education

Chairs Taniguchi and Ige, Vice Chairs Kahele and Kidani and Members of the Committees:

My name is Donald Straney, Chancellor of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. We support SB380 to pursue a Higher Education Learning Center Project in the District of Puna.

Agriculture is a promising career choice for a new generation of innovative and responsible leaders who will contribute to the future needs of our island economy. There is a critical need to strengthen rural outreach, education and economic development. We propose to use the funds to establish an outreach program under our College of Agriculture, Forestry, and Natural Resource Management (CAFNRM). CAFNRM will hire personnel and provide outreach services and short training courses on farm management, sustainable crop production, value-added food products, etc. Furthermore, the outreach personnel will conduct an assessment of community educational and training needs for agricultural development and to increase community engagement and participation in agricultural education, workforce development and economic opportunities for the people of Puna.

We support SB380 provided its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities in our BOR approved budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB380. Aloha.

Hawaiian Shores Community Association

15-2793 S. HONU STREET PAHOA, HAWAII 96778

PHONE (808) 965-8140 FAX (808) 965-0802

EMAIL: hsc@hawaii.rr.com

WEBSITE: www.hawaiianshores.org

Feb. 10, 2013

Committee on Higher Education (HRE)

Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair

Senator Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair

Hawaii State Senate

415 S. Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 380 – Relating to Higher Education

Dear Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Nishihara and Committee Members,

Hawaiian Shores Community Association (HSCA) is the homeowners association representing the Hawaiian Shores Recreational Estates subdivision located in the Puna district on the Big Island containing nearly 1300 lots. As with many of the large subdivisions of the Puna and Ka'u districts of the Big Island, where build-out is now greater than 35%, we maintain community center facilities that may function as part-time classrooms and/or venues for hosting workshops and training programs.

We are very much in support of this measure which would include conducting a needs assessment to identify existing facilities and expertise (individuals and organizations) that can team up to create a virtual learning center network that ties together various facilities in the community where classes can be held such that residents don't have to travel far to participate. There may also be an element of distance (online) classes incorporated into this program which is where the largest growth in higher education offerings is now occurring.

The idea of starting with a focus on agriculture - crop production and processing of foods for local markets – makes perfect sense for the district of Puna which is rural and has great potential to contribute to food security for our local population. Once a successful program is developed that truly promotes and encourages greater agricultural production, we envision this program branching out into other applied subject areas that will lead to job skill growth and support entrepreneurial efforts needed in our community. This would support the growth of small and medium sized businesses in this economically depressed region of the State. Further, the applied nature of the proposed outreach program will make it eligible for other sources of financial support, such that it isn't solely dependent on State funding to be sustained.

We encourage the committee members to support this measure, and hope that the Senate will designate money to fund the expansion of this program using universally available technologies.

Sincerely,



David Johnson, Vice President
Board of Directors
Hawaiian Shores Community Association

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2013 10:52 AM
To: HRETestimony
Cc: nredfeather@kohalacenter.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB380 on Feb 12, 2013 15:30PM

SB380

Submitted on: 2/10/2013

Testimony for HRE on Feb 12, 2013 15:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Redfeather	Hawaii Island School Garden Network	Support	No

Comments: Expansion of educational opportunities for Hawai'i Island residents and students will lead to more farms, greater production, more markets and more food security. If we want more food, then we need to support agricultural education in it's many forms. This idea has been discussed for a few years now, and I think with Senator Ruderman's guidance and ideas this Center could become a catalyst for positive change. Hawai'i Island has the most agricultural land left for production in the state. I support the exploration of this idea.

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From: Larry Fukunaga [lkfassociates@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2013 4:15 PM
To: HRETestimony
Cc: 'Susan Osborne'
Subject: Testimony for SB 380 (Relating to Higher Education)

As a consultant representing a Non-Profit Corporation based in the Puna District, this testimony is submitted to support the measure. By its immense size and strategic location, the Puna District is well suited to provide such a distance learning center providing students on the Big Island and elsewhere the opportunity to participate in virtual classroom lessons without the need to commute long distances. The area, by virtue of its geography, is blessed with important physical attributes (i.e., well drained soils, abundant sunshine, generous rainfall) that are highly supportive to agricultural production, from the individual home garden, family farm and to larger commercial operations.

Such a learning center can be instrumental to targeting educational and training needs in the District, this will help create more jobs and entrepreneurship in Puna and beyond. As such the benefits may be realized in Hawaii County as well as the State of Hawaii.

Mahalo for this opportunity to offer this testimony,
Larry K. Fukunaga
Consultant to Ho'oulu Lahu'i, Inc., Pahoehoe, HI

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2013 9:59 AM
To: HRETestimony
Cc: wwwmsteiner@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB380 on Feb 12, 2013 15:30PM

SB380

Submitted on: 2/12/2013

Testimony for HRE on Feb 12, 2013 15:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dr. William W.M. Steiner	Global Ecology Foundation	Support	No

Comments: I and the organization I represent, the Global Ecology Foundation (GEF) headquartered in Hilo, HI, support this bill. The potential of creating additional access to UHH and especially to agricultural and natural resource programs there or tremendous for the struggling communities that comprise Puna. This area has some of the lowest per capita income in the state but one of the highest growth rates. GEF stands ready to support any resulting programs with conservation and agroecology programs it is developing. It already teaches courses in Korean Natural Farming method and in beekeeping, two programs that will support agricultural development of small farms in the Puna area. Please say yes to this bill and help Puna develop like the NHERC did for Honokaa. I may be reached at 808-294-0750 or at wwwmsteiner@gmail.com for further testimony. Aloha Bill Steiner

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2013 9:47 AM
To: HRETestimony
Cc: jennaway@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB380 on Feb 12, 2013 15:30PM*

SB380

Submitted on: 2/10/2013

Testimony for HRE on Feb 12, 2013 15:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jenna Way	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2013 7:27 PM
To: HRETestimony
Cc: dixiekaetsu@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB380 on Feb 12, 2013 15:30PM*

SB380

Submitted on: 2/8/2013

Testimony for HRE on Feb 12, 2013 15:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dixie Kaetsu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2013 9:25 AM
To: HRETestimony
Cc: steve_hirakami@notes.k12.hi.us
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB380 on Feb 12, 2013 15:30PM

SB380

Submitted on: 2/11/2013

Testimony for HRE on Feb 12, 2013 15:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steve Hirakami	HAASPCS	Support	No

Comments: I support this bill for various reasons. The first is that agriculture and education are currently the two biggest employers in Puna. The second is that Puna lacks reliable public transportation and does not reach into the vast subdivisions of Puna and the UH campus is between 11 and 30 miles from areas in Puna. This effort will help us to grow our food industry. There is one major caveat. Puna is geographically the size of the island of Oahu. Even if you put it in the most centralized place in Puna (which I think people would agree would be Keaau) there still would be transportation problems. I think a better solution would be to link existing public and charter schools up to this opportunity. All schools in Puna have access to agricultural lands that would be either on their campus or relatively close. This would spread the impact out over the whole area and not just improve access to higher education in one locale. Thank you for considering this bill.

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To: HRETestimony
Cc: asinsparks@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB380 on Feb 12, 2013 15:30PM

SB380

Submitted on: 2/10/2013

Testimony for HRE on Feb 12, 2013 15:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steve Sparks	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The need for better processes of getting young people to advance their interest in agriculture and associated subject is important to the future of development in Hawaii. I support SB380 as a start to this goal. Thank you

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Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2013 10:13 AM
To: HRETestimony
Cc: Terryjwalker@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB380 on Feb 12, 2013 15:30PM

SB380

Submitted on: 2/10/2013

Testimony for HRE on Feb 12, 2013 15:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Terry J Walker	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please pass this bill. The youth and unemployed in Puna need opportunities for higher education and training past high school.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 09, 2013 10:31 PM
To: HRETestimony
Cc: suzanne@punapono.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB380 on Feb 12, 2013 15:30PM

SB380

Submitted on: 2/9/2013

Testimony for HRE on Feb 12, 2013 15:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Suzanne Wakelin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, Please vote YES to provide funding for an outreach program to conduct a needs assessment for a potential learning center project in Puna under the college of agriculture, forestry, and natural resource management of the University of Hawaii at Hilo. These efforts will help further develop sustainable agriculture which is greatly needed in Hawaii. Mahalo

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To: HRETestimony
Cc: dcretien@realclasshaas.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB380 on Feb 12, 2013 15:30PM

SB380

Submitted on: 2/9/2013

Testimony for HRE on Feb 12, 2013 15:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Denim Cretton	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Bring the learning to the people!

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Sent: Monday, February 11, 2013 11:22 AM
To: HRETestimony
Cc: shannonkona@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB380 on Feb 12, 2013 15:30PM*

SB380

Submitted on: 2/11/2013

Testimony for HRE on Feb 12, 2013 15:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2013 3:11 PM
To: HRETestimony
Cc: lynhowe1946@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB380 on Feb 12, 2013 15:30PM

SB380

Submitted on: 2/11/2013

Testimony for HRE on Feb 12, 2013 15:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lyn Howe	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This would be just what is needed in Puna.

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Sent: Monday, February 11, 2013 6:29 PM
To: HRETestimony
Cc: Gratefulsal76@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB380 on Feb 12, 2013 15:30PM

SB380

Submitted on: 2/11/2013

Testimony for HRE on Feb 12, 2013 15:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stacey Tucker	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Puna is a point of convergence for agriculture for the islands. This is such a wonderful plan to implement here! Mahalo for your time.

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