

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

KEN H. KAKESAKO
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
MARCH 27, 2014
9:25 A.M.**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2007 HD 1 SD 1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Ige and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2007 HD1 SD1. This bill appropriates funds to the Local and Immigrant Farmer Education (LIFE) Program of the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) Cooperative Extension Service to support the growth and sustainability of the agriculture industry. The Department supports this bill but would defer to CTAHR as to the appropriate level of funding.

The Department is supportive of the efforts of LIFE to provide services to rural, socially disadvantaged producers to help them find success in farming. Labor is a key component necessary for the success of any farming operation. The recent estimates in the preliminary report of the 2012 US Census of Agriculture has found that the average age of a farmer in Hawaii has risen to just over 60 years of age; above even the national average age of a farmer. As such, we would support any efforts to increase outreach, education, and support to our local farmers that would provide them with the tools to find success in agriculture and hope that their continued success would attract newer farmers to join the workforce.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





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March 28, 2014

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON HB 2007, HD1, SD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 211
9:25 AM

Aloha Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,832 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 stands in strong support of HB 2007, HD1, SD1.

I have had direct experience, through my work with the Ka'u coffee industry with the University of Hawaii's Local and Immigrant Farmer Education (LIFE) program and UH Risk Management-Hawaii (RMH) program. I have witnessed the direct benefit provided by these critically important programs that would be supported by the funding represented in this bill. I have watched first-hand as these programs contributed to the transformation of a community that was generationally dependant a plantation system to one of empowered independent businessmen and women. These programs provide the tools and knowledge required for underserved and socially disadvantaged producers to be successful in a modern agricultural economy.

The great work exhibited by the track record of these programs cannot be overstated.

Please pass **HB 2007, HD1, SD1**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure of great importance.



SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS
Friday, March 28, 2014 – 9:25 a.m. – Room 211

Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports HB 2007 HD 1 SD 1, Relating to Agriculture

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kyle Datta and I am general partner of the Ulupono Initiative, a Hawai'i-based impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life for the people of Hawai'i by working toward solutions that create more locally grown food, increase renewable energy, and reduce/recycle waste. Ulupono invests in projects that have the potential to create large-scale, innovative change.

Ulupono strongly supports HB 2007 HD 1 SD 1, which appropriates funds to the Local and Immigrant Farmer Education Program at the University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources Cooperative Extension Service. In our engagement with farmers and ranchers, many of them speak highly of the valuable hands-on advice that extension agents provide in helping them to grow their business and grow more local food. However, they are also very appreciative of extension agents' time because they know their services have greater demand than supply. In particular, extension agents provide the scientific background required to grow crops and animals. Most farmers are not scientists and therefore need assistance from someone with access to science-based knowledge. If the Cooperative Extension Service is able to receive more funding, farmers and ranchers will be able to make better strategic decisions to grow their businesses.

Furthermore, Ulupono helped to fund the Kunia Agricultural Park, which currently leases 187 acres to small to medium-sized farmers in Central O'ahu. During the tenant selection process, we were informed that the overwhelming majority of the applicants either did not speak English or English was not their primary language. Often, many of the applicants were recent immigrants. Besides dealing with the normal struggles of farming, these hard-working people were also finding difficulty dealing with a foreign culture and structures. Many of Hawai'i's future farmers are going to be immigrants and the extension agents are on the front lines helping these people to transition successfully into productive agricultural businesses. With the average age of a Hawai'i farmer near 60 years old, we need to assist those who can help new people who want to be farmers and ranchers.

We believe that working together we can help produce more local food, support an economically strong homegrown agriculture industry, which strengthens our community with fresh, healthy food. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Kyle Datta
General Partner
Email: communications@ulupono.com

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UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Friday, March 28, 2014 at 9:25 am

by
Maria Gallo, Dean
and

J. Kenneth Grace, Interim Associate Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 2007 HD1 SD1 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Senate Committee Ways and Means, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2007 HD1 SD1, which appropriates funds to the Local and Immigrant Farmer Education (LIFE) Program of the University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) Cooperative Extension Service to support the growth and sustainability of the agriculture industry, effective July 1, 2014.

We strongly support this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the University's Board of Regents Approved Executive Biennium Budget.

The Local and Immigrant Farmer Education (LIFE) Program under the direction of the Cooperative Extension Service (CES) faculty within the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR), University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, serves socially disadvantaged and resource-limited producers, including recent immigrants from Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands with limited English skills, Native Hawaiians, and women. The goals of this program are to: (1) increase the viability and sustainability of commercial farms in Hawai'i, (2) integrate more farmers into mainstream agriculture, and (3) help drive Hawaii's diversified industry forward.

The LIFE program has been built on collaborative partnerships and on-farm interactions. Its team-based approach includes collaborative partnerships with CTAHR programs (Risk Management Hawai'i, Aquaponics and Hydroponics Program, Sustainable and Organic Agriculture Program, Ag Incubator Program, Honeybee Program, Basil Swat Team, Hawai'i Tea Program, High Value Vaccinium Project, etc.), statewide Extension agents, agricultural agencies such as USDA (FSA, NRCS, etc.), Hawai'i Department of Agriculture, Hawai'i Department of Health, county agencies, Hawai'i Farm Bureau, Hawai'i Papaya Industry Association, Ka'u and Palehua coffee cooperative, O'ahu RC&D, Ag Foundation and other public and private organizations.

The reach of LIFE is statewide. For example, in FY2012, over 80 events were offered on all islands. Training opportunities address all aspects of successful farming, from soil

fertility, crop production, aquaponics and pest management (including native-language workshops and educational materials) to distribution and marketing, and risk management with crop insurance. Risk management workshops, in partnership with the Risk Management Hawai'i program and with external funds provided by the USDA Risk Management agency, have been extremely popular, and have helped disadvantaged farmers to navigate both natural disasters and such devastating invasive pest events as the coffee berry borer.

LIFE is a grant funded effort, initially supported in early years through funding from the US EPA, and the USDA, and in subsequent years by the efforts of the CTAHR CES faculty team to apply for and obtain additional extramural grants.

HB 2007 HD1 would provide program support to sustain the LIFE program activities, which have perhaps never been more important than today, at time when food security, self-sufficiency and safety are paramount concerns; and regulatory costs and requirements pose serious difficulties for all Hawai'i farmers, and particularly the disadvantaged and often struggling segments of our diversified, small-farm agricultural community served by LIFE.

The amount of \$150,000 originally suggested in HB 2007 would support hire of an extension agent, support staff, and funding of interisland travel and operations.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our strong support for HB 2007 HD1 SD1.



1768 Kalawi Place
Wailuku (Maui), Hawaii 96793

March 26, 2014

Email Testimony

The Honorable David Ige
Chairman Senate Ways and Means
Sendige@capitol.hawaii.gov

Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Vincent Mina
President
Maui

Senate Committee on Ways and Means Hearing on HB 2007 SD 1

Simon Russell
Vice-President
Maui

Aloha Chair Ige, Honorable Committee Members,

HFUU is in Strong Support of HB 2007 SD1; the Local and Immigrant Farming Education (LIFE) program.

David Case
Secretary
Kona

We would like to see more funding to educate local farmers as well as the immigrant farmers in proper methods to grow our food supply. Our food security is in the hands of our farmers, and we need to empower them to create robust regional food systems. Whatever we can do legislatively and otherwise to make it possible to make a living farming in Hawaii, that's what we need to be doing more of.

Ray Maki
Treasurer
Kauai

Education is the first step towards a food secure Hawaii, so please support LIFE.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Boyar
Member
Oahu

HAWAII FARMERS UNION UNITED

Simon Russell
Simon Russell, Vice-President & Legislative Chairman

David Fisher
Member
Maui

Steve Sakala
Member
Kona

The Hawaii Farmers Union and its Chapters is a nonprofit corporation formed under Hawaii law. It advocates for the sovereign right of farmers to create and sustain vibrant and prosperous agricultural communities for the benefit of all Hawaii through cooperation, education and legislation.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: malekogirl@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2007 on Mar 28, 2014 09:25AM
Date: Thursday, March 27, 2014 9:34:50 AM

HB2007

Submitted on: 3/27/2014

Testimony for WAM on Mar 28, 2014 09:25AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christina Zimmerman	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Chair Ige, Kanahale, Vice Chair Kidani and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB 2007 HD1 SD1 Relating to the Local and Immigrant Farmer Education Program at the University of Hawaii, at Manoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. My name is Christina Zimmerman and I am providing personal testimony. LIFE has established a solid reputation for delivering timely, useful, hands-on, quality extension education to Hawaii's underserved and socially disadvantaged producers. These producers include limited resource growers, women, native Hawaiians, and socially disadvantaged agribusiness owners and farm workers. The LIFE Program is using the traditional extension model of "taking the university out to the people." The goal of the LIFE program is to: 1) increase the viability and sustainability of commercial farms in Hawaii, 2) integrate more farmers into mainstream agriculture, and 3) help drive Hawaii's diversified industry forward. LIFE's ability to provide service to rural, socially disadvantaged, underserved, and limited resource producers of Hawaii is largely due to a team-based and grass-roots approach to providing extension education through collaborative partnerships and on-farm relationships. Its team-based approach includes collaborative partnerships with CTAHR programs (Risk Management Hawaii, Sustainable and Organic Agriculture Program, Aquaponics and Hydroponics Program, Sustainable Pest Management Program, , Ag Incubator Program, Basil Swat Team, Go Farm Hawaii, Hawai'i Tea Program, High Value Vaccinium Project, Honeybee Program, etc.), statewide Extension agents, UHM John A. Burns School of Medicine, agricultural agencies such as USDA (FSA, NRCS, etc.), Hawai'i Department of Agriculture, Hawai'i Department of Health, county agencies, Hawai'i Farm Bureau, Hawai'i Papaya Industry Association, Kau and Palehua coffee cooperative, Pacific Gateway Center, Oahu RC&D, Ag Foundation, other public and private organizations and Hawaii's growers. These partnerships enable LIFE to educate growers about a wide spectrum of priority agricultural topics while providing opportunities for growers to meet and take advantage of available government programs in a safe and conducive learning environment. HB 2007 HD1 SD1 would provide program support to sustain the LIFE program activities, which have perhaps never been more important than today. Currently food security, self-sufficiency and safety are paramount concerns, Regulatory costs and requirements pose serious

difficulties for all Hawai'i farmers, and particularly the disadvantaged and often struggling segments of our diversified, small-farm agricultural community served by LIFE. Continued access to farm resources and educational support services in remote areas across the state would help advance the sustainability of Hawaii's diversified agricultural sector. I believe that bill HB 2007 HD1 SD1 has much merit. I strongly recommend that it be funded. Ongoing funding to support the LIFE program at CTAHR is crucial to the sustainability of Hawaii's diversified agriculture. Thank you for the opportunity to express our strong support for HB 2007 HD1 SD1.

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HB2007

Submitted on: 3/25/2014

Testimony for WAM on Mar 28, 2014 09:25AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jari S.K. Sugano	Individual	Support	No

Comments: March 25, 2014 HB 2007, HD1, SD1: FUNDING OF THE LIFE PROGRAM, UH CTAHR Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB 2007 HD1 SD1 Relating to the Local and Immigrant Farmer Education Program at the University of Hawaii, at Manoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. I strongly support this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the University's Board of Regents Approved Executive Biennium Budget. Let me state from the onset of this testimony that, as a member of the faculty at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, it is important to note that I support the prioritization process that the administration utilizes to establish their annual budgetary request to the legislature and can only advocate for additional funding of university programs if it does not negatively impact existing requests that are included in the executive budget. My name is Jari Sugano and I am a County Extension Agent and statewide program coordinator for the LIFE program at UH Manoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. Today, I am providing personal testimony. LIFE has established a solid reputation for delivering timely, useful, hands-on, quality extension education to Hawaii's underserved and socially disadvantaged producers. These producers include limited resource growers, women, native Hawaiians, and socially disadvantaged agribusiness owners and farm workers. The LIFE Program is using the traditional extension model of "taking the university out to the people." The goal of the LIFE program is to: 1) increase the viability and sustainability of commercial farms in Hawaii, 2) integrate more farmers into mainstream agriculture, and 3) help drive Hawaii's diversified industry forward. Many of our farmers prefer a one-on-one or close-knit small group learning environment because they are easily intimidated by government agencies and shy to discuss their problems in front of others. Establishment of a non-threatening environment is very critical to farmers with limited English proficiency. For many new immigrant farmers in Hawaii, the agriculture business is a family business. First generation farmers appreciate the value of education and often have children (second generation children) who are educated and involved with the family business. In Hawaii, these children have a strong influence on decisions made on the farm and effectively communicate with extension personnel. LIFE works with multi-generational agricultural families and

agricultural businesses that employ immigrant farmers to increase the advancement and adoption of new technology and best management practices. Our ability to provide service to rural, socially disadvantaged, underserved, and limited resource producers of Hawaii is largely due to a team-based and grass-roots approach to providing extension education through collaborative partnerships and on-farm relationships. Its team-based approach includes collaborative partnerships with CTAHR programs (Risk Management Hawaii, Sustainable and Organic Agriculture Program, Aquaponics and Hydroponics Program, Sustainable Pest Management Program, , Ag Incubator Program, Basil Swat Team, Go Farm Hawaii, Hawai'i Tea Program, High Value Vaccinium Project, Honeybee Program, etc.), statewide Extension agents, UHM John A. Burns School of Medicine, agricultural agencies such as USDA (FSA, NRCS, etc.), Hawai'i Department of Agriculture, Hawai'i Department of Health, county agencies, Hawai'i Farm Bureau, Hawai'i Papaya Industry Association, Kau and Palehua coffee cooperative, Pacific Gateway Center, Oahu RC&D, Ag Foundation, other public and private organizations and Hawaii's growers. These partnerships enable LIFE to educate growers about a wide spectrum of priority agricultural topics while providing opportunities for growers to meet and take advantage of available government programs in a safe and conducive learning environment. Our long term goal is to assist growers in becoming self-directed, active information seekers and adopters of new research based agricultural advances. HB 2007 HD1 SD1 would provide program support to sustain the LIFE program activities, which have perhaps never been more important than today. Currently food security, self-sufficiency and safety are paramount concerns, Regulatory costs and requirements pose serious difficulties for all Hawai'i farmers, and particularly the disadvantaged and often struggling segments of our diversified, small-farm agricultural community served by LIFE. Continued access to farm resources and educational support services in remote areas across the state would help advance the sustainability of Hawaii's diversified agricultural sector. I believe that bill HB 2007 HD1 SD1 has much merit. I strongly recommend that it be funded. Ongoing funding to support the LIFE program at CTAHR is crucial to the sustainability of Hawaii's diversified agriculture. Thank you for the opportunity to express our strong support for HB 2007 HD1 SD1.

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HB2007

Submitted on: 3/26/2014

Testimony for WAM on Mar 28, 2014 09:25AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John McHugh	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I have submitted testimony twice for this bill as it has made its way through the legislative process. Thank you to all of the elected representatives who have seen that there is true value and need for the effort being extended to serve the local immigrant farmers. Please continue to do so as there is a considerable need for the program. Thank you.

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