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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2007 on Mar 28, 2014 09:25AM  
**Date:** Thursday, March 27, 2014 12:42:54 PM

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**HB2007**

Submitted on: 3/27/2014

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
chris kobayashi	Individual	Support	No

Comments: hands on teaching with community outreach is so important and is something that UH-CTAHR should be doing. i attended one of their events in Waimanalo, a Taro Field day. i was impressed by the attendance and the quality of the information presented. please support. mahalo.

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**HB2007**

Submitted on: 3/27/2014

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Janet Ashman	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support HB 2007 HD1 SD1, Relating to the Local and Immigrant Farmer Education Program at the University of Hawaii, CTAHR. Funding for this innovative, island-wide, hands-on education program is essential because it supports the many small diversified farmers who have little access to resources and often limited skills, including limited fluency in English. Support for the cost-effective program translates to a safer, more sustainable, and more food secure Hawaii. Please pass this measure. Thank you. Janet Ashman

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## KAKO'O 'O'IWI

March 27, 2014

To: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair, and  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Date: March 28, 2014

Time: 09:25 a.m.

Place: Conference Room 211, State Capitol

From: Janice-Renee Yoshioka, Chief Financial Officer  
Kāko'o 'O'iwi, a non-profit organization

**Re: Support of H.B. 2007, H.D.1, S.D.1 Relating to Agriculture**

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Honorable Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

My name is Janice-Renee Yoshioka and I am pleased to submit this **testimony in support of H.B. 2007, H.D.1, S.D.1**, on behalf of our organization.

H.B. 2007, H.D.1, S.D.1 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.

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. Since its inception, the LIFE Program has established a solid reputation for delivering timely, useful, hands-on, quality extension education to Hawai'i's underserved and socially disadvantaged producers including limited resource growers, women, native Hawaiians, and socially disadvantaged agribusiness owners and farm workers.

Our organization is a native Hawaiian 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that manages a 405-acre property in He'eia, O'ahu for the cultivation of wetland taro and diversified agricultural crops. As a relatively new agricultural producer, the LIFE program and the services provided through the CTAHR Cooperative Extension Service has provided valuable training, technical guidance and support to our beginning farmers, the majority of which are native Hawaiian.

As Hawai'i works to achieve greater food security, self-sufficiency and safety, there is a growing need for the sound technical guidance, educational support and farm resources provided by the LIFE Program. H.B. 2007 H.D.1, S.D.1 and the appropriations requested thereunder will enable the LIFE program and CTAHR to continue providing critical knowledge and technical support to resource limited agricultural producers and enable current and future generations of native Hawaiian and other farmers to reconnect with and perpetuate the rich agricultural heritage and traditions of our forebears.

For this reason, we strongly support and respectfully encourage the Senate Committee on Ways and Means to fund H.B. 2007, H.D.1, S.D.1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Me Ka Ha'aha'a,

**Kāko'o 'Ōiwi**



Janice-Renee Yoshioka



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**Attachments:** [hb\\_testimony.txt](#)

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**HB2007**

Submitted on: 3/27/2014

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Steve Russo	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: My name is Steve Russo 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: 3/27/2014

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Steven Ogata	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Please support the LIFE Program at the University of Hawaii, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. It is my experience that the LIFE program assists immigrant farmers in being productive citizens of our State. They assist the farmers in business plans, how to grow their crops safely and efficiently. The LIFE Program sets these new residents of our State off on the right foot. They assist in creating successful businesses who then pay taxes and produce commodities for our State that are safe and healthy for all of us. Please fund this program.

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