



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Written Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Finance  
Wednesday, February 26, 2014 at 5:00 pm

by  
Maria Gallo  
Dean

College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### HB 2007 HD1 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Luke, Vice Chairs Nishimoto and Johanson, and members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2007 HD1, which appropriates \$150,000 to the LIFE Program of the University of Hawai'i CTAHR Cooperative Extension Service to support the growth and sustainability of the agriculture industry, effective July 1, 2014.

We 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 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. The USDA Risk Management agency has been an important source of such competitive grant funds for the past several years, but these funds are no longer available at the present time. 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.

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

**Personal Testimony Presented before the  
House Committee on Finance**

Tuesday February 24, 2014

**By: Janice Y. Uchida, PhD**

**Bill number: HB 2007 HD1: Funding of the Life Program, UHM CTAHR**

**Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair Johanson and the Members of the House committee on Finance:**

My name is Janice Y. Uchida and I serve as a faculty at the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources at the University of Hawaii. I am pleased to provide personal testimony on HB 2007, which is to support the Funding of the Life Program Project. This testimony does not represent my position at the University of Hawaii.

This bill will appropriate \$150,000 to the LIFE program. This Local and Immigrant Farmer Education Program is extremely successful. Although I am a Researcher who investigates causes of fungal diseases on Tropical crops, I also have Extension time, and I have participated in workshops, demonstration trials and seminars with the LIFE program. The grower participation is very high and they all believe they are getting information that would not be available from other sources. For example when we met with the Basil growers, who are predominantly Chinese immigrants, we had an interpreter who translated our presentations. Several growers speak no English and are highly dependent on other growers who do. Thus, it was a great opportunity for them to be at a meeting at which they could participate with Extension agents and Researchers. Written material is also available in Chinese, and other languages. Every year the program has grown and expanded. It addresses a highly important niche in our Agricultural community. In science, communication of our research results can only help the growers if they understand the message and the rationale behind the findings. As an educator I am always so thrilled to see the light of knowledge turn "on" in a person's eyes.

**Thus I strongly support the funding for this very valuable program. Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this bill.**

Kind regards,  
Janice Y. Uchida  
Associate Professor  
Department of Plant and Environmental Protection Sciences  
University of Hawaii at Manoa  
Honolulu, HI 96822

February 25, 2014

House Bill 2007 HD1. Appropriation of funds for the Local and Immigrant Farmer Education Program of the University of Hawaii, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources Cooperative Extension Services.

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair Johanson and members of the House Committee on Finance, I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB 2007 HD1 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 Jensen Uyeda, I am an extension agent with the Department of Tropical Plant and Soil Science, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. Today, I am providing personal testimony.

An increasing number of socially disadvantaged farmers are entering Hawaii's agriculture industry with little to no experience in commercial agriculture. They operate in rural and remote areas of Hawaii. They cultivate diverse and culturally important crops primarily for local food production. Ongoing educational support from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (UH CTAHR), Cooperative Extension Service is essential for the sustainability of these under represented, developing agricultural areas due to their small acreage, remote locations, lack of access to farm resources, and limited English literacy.

This change in Hawaii's agriculture industry prompted a need for an educational program involving responsible and sustainable farming, business and risk management, and environmental protection stewardship. UH CTAHR developed a grass roots oriented program, Local and Immigrant Farmer Education Program (LIFE) in under serviced farming communities to assist these producers in dealing with the many facets of crop production. The LIFE program is a team of Cooperative Extension Service agents and specialists with an established network of government and industry partners.

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.

Committed to the mission of the land grant university, LIFE strives to provide quality educational programs to ensure farmers in the targeted areas are sufficiently informed, have access to existing and emerging research based management tools, have ample

opportunities to advance their knowledgebase and competencies so they can correctly choose and utilize specific technology and practices best suited to meet their diverse educational needs.

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. 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 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 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.**

Best Regards,

Jensen Uyeda  
Junior Extension Agent  
Department of Tropical Plant and Soil Science  
University of Hawaii, Manoa  
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759  
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921  
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February 26, 2014

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 2007, HD1  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 308  
5:00 PM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair Johanson, 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.**

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.

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

**finance8-Danyl**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 25, 2014 4:56 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** farmboyhawaii@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB2007 on Feb 26, 2014 17:00PM\*

**HB2007**

Submitted on: 2/25/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2014 17:00PM in Conference Room 308

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>                 | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ross Sibucan        | Hawai'i Papaya Industry Association | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

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HAWAII PAPAYA INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION  
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 190 KAMEHAMEHA AVENUE Room 1 HILO HI 96720  
 PHONE: (808)969.1160 FAX: (808)969.1781  
 e-mail: papayas@aloha.net

FACSIMILE COVER

FAX NO. (808) 535-3859

ATTENTION: Submit Testimony

OF: HAO 2007 HDI / LIFE, LIH STATE

FROM: Law

This transmittal consists of 3 pages, including this cover page.  
 Please call if you have not received all of the pages. Thank you.



February 24, 2014

**HB 2007 HD1: FUNDING OF THE LIFE PROGRAM, UH CTAHR**

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair Johanson and members of the House Committee on Finance, I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB 2007 HD1 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 Karen Umehara. Today, I am providing personal testimony.

An increasing number of socially disadvantaged farmers are entering Hawaii's agriculture industry with little to no experience in commercial agriculture. They operate in rural and remote areas of Hawaii. They cultivate diverse and culturally important crops primarily for local food production. Ongoing educational support from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (UH CTAHR), Cooperative Extension Service is essential for the sustainability of these under represented, developing agricultural areas due to their small acreage, remote locations, lack of access to farm resources, and limited English literacy.

This change in Hawaii's agriculture industry prompted a need for an educational program involving responsible and sustainable farming, business and risk management, and environmental protection stewardship. UH CTAHR developed a grass roots oriented program, Local and Immigrant Farmer Education Program (LIFE) in under serviced farming communities to assist these producers in dealing with the many facets of crop production. The LIFE program is a team of Cooperative Extension Service agents and specialists with an established network of government and industry partners.

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.

Committed to the mission of the land grant university, LIFE strives to provide quality educational programs to ensure farmers in the targeted areas are sufficiently informed, have access to existing and emerging research based management tools, have ample opportunities to advance their knowledgebase and competencies so they can correctly choose and utilize specific technology and practices best suited to meet their diverse educational needs.

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. 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 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 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.**



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
Wednesday, February 26, 2014 – 5:00 p.m. – Room 308

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

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair Johanson 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**, 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](mailto:communications@ulupono.com)

Pacific Guardian Center, Mauka Tower  
737 Bishop Street, Suite 2350, Honolulu, HI 96813

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[www.ulupono.com](http://www.ulupono.com)





## KAKO'O 'ŌIWI

February 25, 2014

To: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
The Honorable Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair, and  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Date: February 25, 2014

Time: 05:00 p.m.

Place: Room 327, State Capitol

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

### **Re: Support of H.B. No. 2007 HD1 Relating to Agriculture**

#### **I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

H.B. 2007 HD1 appropriates funds to the Local and Immigrant Farmer Education (LIFE) Program of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) Cooperative Extension Service to support the growth and sustainability of the agriculture industry.

#### **II. COMMENTS ON THE SENATE BILL**

The LIFE program was designed to serve socially disadvantaged and resource-limited producers, including recent immigrants from Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands with limited English skills, as well as Native Hawaiians, and women. Since its inception, the LIFE program has provided technical support to rural, socially disadvantaged and underserved producers in Hawai'i and continues to play a critical role in advancing the State of Hawai'i's goal of increasing local food security and sustainability and expanding the agricultural industry in Hawai'i.

Kāko'o 'Ōiwi 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.

Beyond conventional notions of agriculture as a vocation or simply an act of food production, agricultural practice has enabled our organization and constituents to reconnect with and perpetuate the rich heritage and traditions of our forebears.



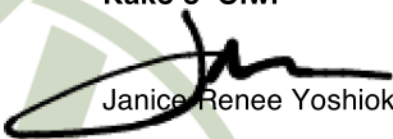
## KAKO'O 'ŌIWI

H.B. 2007 HD1 will enable the LIFE program to continue its valuable work providing the technical guidance needed to ensure that new generations of native Hawaiians and others are able to engage in a profession that is both culturally relevant and economically viable while contributing to our shared goals for a robust local agriculture industry in Hawai'i. For this reason, we request that you support H.B. 2007 HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Me Ka Ha'aha'a,

**Kāko'o 'Ōiwi**

  
Janice Renee Yoshioka



## finance1

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 24, 2014 9:56 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** ncsugano@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2007 on Feb 26, 2014 17:00PM

### HB2007

Submitted on: 2/24/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2014 17:00PM in Conference Room 308

| Submitted By     | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Jari S.K. Sugano | Individual   | Support            | Yes                |

Comments: February 24, 2014 HB 2007 HD1: FUNDING OF THE LIFE PROGRAM, UH CTAHR Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair Johanson and members of the House Committee on Finance, I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB 2007 HD1 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. An increasing number of socially disadvantaged farmers are entering Hawaii's agriculture industry with little to no experience in commercial agriculture. They operate in rural and remote areas of Hawaii. They cultivate diverse and culturally important crops primarily for local food production. Ongoing educational support from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (UH CTAHR), Cooperative Extension Service is essential for the sustainability of these under represented, developing agricultural areas due to their small acreage, remote locations, lack of access to farm resources, and limited English literacy. This change in Hawaii's agriculture industry prompted a need for an educational program involving responsible and sustainable farming, business and risk management, and environmental protection stewardship. UH CTAHR developed a grass roots oriented program, Local and Immigrant Farmer Education Program (LIFE) in under serviced farming communities to assist these producers in dealing with the many facets of crop production. The LIFE program is a team of Cooperative Extension Service agents and specialists with an established network of government and industry partners. 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.

Committed to the mission of the land grant university, LIFE strives to provide quality educational programs to ensure farmers in the targeted areas are sufficiently informed, have access to existing and emerging research based management tools, have ample opportunities to advance their knowledgebase and competencies so they can correctly choose and utilize specific technology and practices best suited to meet their diverse educational needs. LIFE's extension educational programs are responsive to their clientele's identified, immediate and long-term educational needs. A needs assessment study was utilized to identify the present and future needs of LIFE's clientele base. LIFE continues to discover new ways in attracting, promoting and educating growers to attend extension educational events; advance timeliness and delivery of relevant, research-based information; and enhance clients' relationships and satisfaction with UH CTAHR and other government programs through identification of high priority areas. The top four areas of priority for statewide LIFE cooperators were: 1) suppression and management of insect and disease pests; 2) crop nutrition and fertilization; 3) marketing and adding value; and 4) new varieties, crops and products. Growers reinforced their preference for face-to-face interaction and indicated they would like to see more field day opportunities. LIFE understands that the economic success of agricultural producers relies on the growers' ability to adapt farming principles and practices to integrate the latest technology and research developments. LIFE establishes critical on-farm field experiments and workshops in conjunction with growers to tackle pressing crop production issues that strive to improve productivity and profitability. A few examples would include: pesticide safety, spray calibration, crop protection rotational programs, risk management, food safety, spray coverage, perpetuation of taro, integrated pest management, sustainable and organic farming, and variety trials to overcome new and challenging pests, organic cultivation, marketing, and adding value. Field day activities using the hands-on teaching demonstration method enables growers to see the impact of LIFE's recommendations first hand. We also believe repetition and continuous reinforcement of previous topics is important because of language difficulty and for information retention. 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. The Farm Doctor program is the core program for the LIFE program. Field visitations to commercial agricultural operations are conducted on an ongoing basis to provide crop production consultation support. Through farm visitations, we work with growers in conducting a 'farm checkup' to ensure farms are in good diagnostic order. We strive to develop a strong, trusting working relationship with growers to address priority issues and develop appropriate solutions to meet their needs. Bilingual material filled with color photographs and terminologies in lay-terms are used in conjunction with translators to support field visitations and educational events. 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 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 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.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**finance1**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 25, 2014 5:21 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** theodore@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2007 on Feb 26, 2014 17:00PM

**HB2007**

Submitted on: 2/25/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2014 17:00PM in Conference Room 308

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ted Radovich        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments: Thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB 2007, Relating to Agriculture. 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. Detailed testimony on the value and impact of the LIFE program has already submitted. As a CTAHR extension specialist in sustainable and organic agriculture who has worked with growers and grower groups statewide. I have personally witnessed the value of this program. HB 2007 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 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 my strong support for HB 2007.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2014 7:40 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Cc: stevenogata@yahoo.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2007 on Feb 26, 2014 17:00PM

**HB2007**

Submitted on: 2/25/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2014 17:00PM in Conference Room 308

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Steven Ogata        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments: The LIFE Program is important for our State's economy and for the safety of the food we eat. Immigrant farmers are taught the laws they need to know about conducting business in Hawaii. They are also taught how to safely and correctly apply pesticides (insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides) to their crops. Funding this program will have short and long term effects to our State by starting these farmer off on the right foot.

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**finance1**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 25, 2014 8:12 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** Mchughj001@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2007 on Feb 26, 2014 17:00PM

**HB2007**

Submitted on: 2/25/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2014 17:00PM in Conference Room 308

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| John McHugh         | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments: As a farmer in Hawaii I have seen a huge impact of the LIFE program in the agriculture industry. The immigrant and socially disadvantaged/limited resource farmers are those that require the greatest amount of attention by the Cooperative Extension Service to assure that their farming practices are consistent with Best Management Practices developed for agriculture in the U.S. and the State of Hawaii. Without this program there are no resources to reach out to the immigrant farmers which can cause some concerns over improper use of pesticides and lack of implementation of conservation practices consistent with the requirements of the State of Hawaii Soil and Water Conservation Districts. I ask that you support this bill and provide the funding needed to continue the outreach effort to the immigrant farmers. Thank you.

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February 24, 2014

## **HB 2007 HD1: FUNDING OF THE LIFE PROGRAM, UH CTAHR**

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair Johanson and members of the House Committee on Finance, I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB 2007 HD1 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 Vincent Kimura, today, I am providing personal testimony.**

An increasing number of socially disadvantaged farmers are entering Hawaii's agriculture industry with little to no experience in commercial agriculture. They operate in rural and remote areas of Hawaii. They cultivate diverse and culturally important crops primarily for local food production. Ongoing educational support from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (UH CTAHR), Cooperative Extension Service is essential for the sustainability of these under represented, developing agricultural areas due to their small acreage, remote locations, lack of access to farm resources, and limited English literacy.

This change in Hawaii's agriculture industry prompted a need for an educational program involving responsible and sustainable farming, business and risk management, and environmental protection stewardship. UH CTAHR developed a grass roots oriented program, Local and Immigrant Farmer Education Program (LIFE) in under serviced farming communities to assist these producers in dealing with the many facets of crop production. The LIFE program is a team of Cooperative Extension Service agents and specialists with an established network of government and industry partners.

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.

Committed to the mission of the land grant university, LIFE strives to provide quality educational programs to ensure farmers in the targeted areas are sufficiently informed, have access to existing and emerging research based management tools, have ample opportunities to advance their knowledgebase and competencies so they can correctly choose and utilize specific technology and practices best suited to meet their diverse educational needs.

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. 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 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 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.**

**finance1**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 25, 2014 7:42 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** irisiwami@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2007 on Feb 26, 2014 17:00PM

**HB2007**

Submitted on: 2/25/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2014 17:00PM in Conference Room 308

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Iris Iwami          | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments: I support HB 2007. In Hawaii there are significant number of immigrant farmers. I have attended several LIFE workshops and these workshops are valuable to Hawaii's immigrant farmer population. These workshops provide excellent information on various topics such as pest identification, calibration of sprayers, marketing of locally grown crops, worker safety, etc. Please pass this bill.

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Feb. 25, 2014

**Testimony on HB2007 HD1: Funding of the Life Program, UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources**

To: Chair Sylvia Luke and members of the House Committee on Finance

From: Cheryl Ernst, Kailua

I am providing personal testimony in support of HB2007 HD1 Relating to the Local and Immigrant Farmer Education Program

As a grandmother, I am concerned about the healthfulness of foods my young grandchildren eat. As someone concerned about the environment, I believe both in trying to “eat local” and in keeping significant areas of our islands in diversified agriculture rather than concrete. As a member of the community, I want to see a healthy economy that includes local agriculture using sustainable practices.

Let’s face it, most kama’aina, especially professional people like me and my local in-laws (who got out of the pig farming business years ago), aren’t going into farming. Many of those willing to farm are immigrants or socially disadvantaged. That means the safety of our food supply is in the hands of people who may lack the education, English proficiency and/or resources to become thoroughly educated in the best practices in farming, including safe use of pesticides and proper crop handling.

I rarely feel moved enough by an issue to take the trouble to submit testimony, but I have been really impressed with the LIFE program. It is team-based, drawing on partnerships with a wide range of university, government and community agencies and programs. More important, it is grass-roots-based, taking information to the farmer in meaningful, useful, understandable ways.

I strongly support funding for this program. It is a small price to pay to provide very real support for diversified agriculture in Hawai’i and ensure the safety of the food our keiki eat.

Thank you.

**finance1**

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**LATE**

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2014 11:11 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** ashman.janet@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB2007 on Feb 26, 2014 17:00PM\*

**HB2007**

Submitted on: 2/26/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2014 17:00PM in Conference Room 308

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

Comments:

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