
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The University of Hawaii college of tropical
2 agriculture and human resources cooperative extension service is
3 a part of the world's largest non-traditional education system.
4 The cooperative extension system can be found in every state and
5 in most countries. The system is a partnership between federal,
6 state, and local governments, and is responsible for providing
7 science-based information and educational programs in
8 agriculture, natural resources, and human resources.

9 Through the cooperative extension system, the University of
10 Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and human resources
11 developed the local and immigrant farmer education program.
12 This consists of a team of cooperative extension agents and
13 specialists with an established network of government and
14 industry partners. It has established a solid reputation for
15 delivering timely, useful, hands-on, quality extension education
16 to Hawaii's underserved and socially disadvantaged producers.
17 However, due to the present lack of federal funding, the program
18 is facing many challenges.



1 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to the
 2 local and immigrant farmer education program of the University
 3 of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and human resources
 4 cooperative extension service to support the growth and
 5 sustainability of the local agriculture industry.

6 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
 7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$150,000 or so much
 8 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the
 9 local and immigrant farmer education program.

10 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of
 11 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

12 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.

13

INTRODUCED BY:

[Handwritten Signature]

[Handwritten Signature]
[Handwritten Signature]
[Handwritten Signature]

[Handwritten Signature]
[Handwritten Signature]
[Handwritten Signature]
[Handwritten Signature]

JAN 17 2014



H.B. NO. 2007

Report Title:

Appropriation; University of Hawaii; CTAHR; LIFE

Description:

Appropriates \$150,000 to the LIFE Program of the University of Hawaii CTAHR Cooperative Extension Service to support the growth and sustainability of the agriculture industry. Effective July 1, 2014.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.





UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education
Thursday, January 30, 2014 at 2:15 pm

by
Maria Gallo
Dean

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

HB 2007 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Choy, Vice Chair Ichiyama, and members of the House Committee on Higher Education, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2007, which appropriates \$150,000 to the Local & Immigrant Farmer Education (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 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 is 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. LIFE serves 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. More conventional farmers and ranchers also benefit from participation in program events. 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 agricultural 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, Sustainable and Organic Agriculture Program, Aquaponics and Hydroponics Program, Sustainable Pest Management Program, , Ag Incubator Program, Basil Swat Team, Go Farm Hawai'i, 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, Ka'u and Palehua coffee cooperative, Pacific Gateway Center, O'ahu RC&D, Ag Foundation, other public and private organizations and Hawaii's growers.

The reach of LIFE is statewide. For example, in FY2012 over 80 events and in FY2013 over 110 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, record-keeping, and familiarization with government programs such as crop insurance, disaster assistance, and farm loans.

LIFE is a grant funded effort, supported by the efforts of the CTAHR CES faculty team to apply for and obtain additional extramural grants. 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 through the LIFE program will help advance the sustainability of Hawai'i's diversified agricultural sector.

Thank you for the opportunity to express support for HB 2007.



HPCCA

HAWAII PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

House Committee on Higher Education

The Hon. Isaac W. Choy, Chair

The Hon. Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of House Bill 2007

Relating to Agriculture

Submitted by Robert Hirokawa, Chief Executive Officer

January 30, 2014, 2:15 pm, Room 309

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCCA), which represents the federally qualified community health centers in Hawaii, supports House Bill 2007, which appropriates funds to the LIFE Program at the University of Hawaii CTAHR Cooperative Extension Services to support the growth and sustainability of the agriculture industry.

The HPCCA is a staunch believer in the social determinants of health, those economic and social conditions that influence an individual and a community's health status. These conditions serve as risk factors endemic to a person's living and working environment, rather than their behavioral or genetic histories. Factors such as income, education, access to recreation and healthy foods, housing, and employment, can and do have measurable impacts on a person and a community, both in health and financial outcomes.

House Bill 2007 speaks to multiple such determinants by providing monies to the University of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture, which operates the local and immigrant farmer education program. Therein it provides timely, practical, hands-on education to Hawaii's underserved and disadvantaged populations while at the same time supporting an industry that provides healthy foods into the community.

For these reasons, we strongly support this measure and thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Hawaii Papaya Industry Association

PO Box 6959/ 190 Kamehameha Avenue Rm. 1

Hilo, HI 96720

Ph.:(808)969.1160 Fax(808)969.1781

papayas@aloha.net

Committee on Higher Education

Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Chair

HB 2007 ~ Relating to Agriculture

January 29, 2014

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

We, the Hawai'i Papaya Industry Association a.k.a. HPIA, STRONGLY SUPPORT this bill. The HPIA is a statewide non-profit organization whose members are made up of 150+ Growers, Packing facilities, Wholesalers, and Distributors. I'm one of those 150 growers who is a small scale farm and who makes up the 2000+ acres of Papayas that are commercially produced statewide.

In previous years, the HPIA heavily participated in the LIFE program. The Papaya Growers were GREATLY benefited by the LIFE program and their educators. You see, about 90% of the growers are of Filipino descent and most are immigrants from the Philippines. Many are challenged with the language barrier but are willing to attend the workshops and sponge up whatever they can to benefit their farm operations. Nice thing about the LIFE program is they assists with the language barrier. I myself am a 3rd generation local born farmer who both my grandfather and father were both immigrants from the Philippines.

Me attending the workshops and ALSO being involved with some of the trails, has seen how the LIFE program impacted with the improvement of the Papaya Industry. The constant education that any farmer can get on improved sustainable techniques, updates on food safety, computer classes, business education, or even just the introduction on safer more effective pesticides is important. Knowing more equals more Tools. Many growers are not aware sometimes that there are new products out there to combat NEW invasive pests/disease/fungus. With LIFE program, they do trails and show results to these farmers so then they can make informative decisions on their farm operations. The LIFE program is an excellent example of a successful OUTREACH program.

Please Pass HB 2007, introduced by Rep. Richard Onishi, to appropriate \$150,000 to jump start the LIFE program. We need it.

Mahalo,
Ross Sibucan
President, Hawai'i Papaya Industry Association

To: Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Chair

Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

Committee on Higher Education

From: Clyde Fukuyama

Matsuda-Fukuyama Farms, Inc.

Date: January 30, 2014

Subject: Support of HB 2007 Relating to Agriculture. Appropriate \$150,000 to the LIFE Program of the University of Hawaii CTAHR Cooperative Extension Service to support the growth and sustainability of the agriculture industry. Effective July 1, 2014.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2007. I am in strong support of the \$150,000 appropriation for the LIFE program. This program has provided agricultural training that is imperative for successful farming such as, soil nutrition, crop production, pest management, marketing and distribution, and crop insurance. With the many challenges we face as farmers, it is difficult to succeed without this type of training and educational programs.

I respectfully request your support of the passage of HB 2007.

Thank you,

Clyde Fukuyama

Matsuda-Fukuyama Farms, Inc.

RUSTY'S HAWAIIAN

P. O. BOX 845
PAHALA, HI 96777
Phone: (808) 928-8916
e-mail: lorie@rustyshawaiian.com

LATE TESTIMONY**COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION**

Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

Thursday, January 30, 2014
2:15 PM

HB 2007
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Aloha Chair Choy, Vice Chair Ichiyama and members of the committee:

I am Lorie Obra, owner of RUSTY'S HAWAIIAN LLC, a multiple award winning Ka'u Coffee in 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 and the past President of the Ka'u Coffee Growers Cooperative.

As a Farmer and a member of the Ka'u Coffee Growers cooperative, I very strongly support the HB 2007. Both the Hawaii's Local and Immigrant Farmer Education (LIFE) program and UH Risk Management -Hawaii (RMH) have tremendously benefited me and the members of my cooperative.. These programs provided us, the socially disadvantaged and underserved producer the education that we wouldn't have had the opportunity to receive if not for the presence of LIFE and RMH.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify..

House of Representatives

To the Committee on Higher Education

Testimony in Support of HB2007

Tuesday, January 28, 2014

Aloha, all.

I'm a "crop consultant" with the statewide agricultural supply company called Crop Production Services.

I'm testifying on my own behalf in support of HB 2007...

As a crop consultant, my job is to work directly with the farmers in the field helping them to grow a crop efficiently and profitably. We have a great working relationship with the UH CTAHR CES Extension Agents and I fully support the LIFE Program, the LIFE Team and what they do and provide for the growers of Hawaii.

They are very successful in doing "hands on" workshops that the layman farmer can understand as well as getting out in the field working directly with farmers, which in turn, helps to bring out more farmers to upcoming sessions. They (Dr. Stuart Nakamoto, Jari Sugano and the rest of the team members) work very well together and fully support each other to achieve their goals of helping our farmers be more successful in their operations.

Please pass HB 2007 and appropriate the \$150,000 to the LIFE Program of the University of Hawaii CTAHR CES that Representative Richard Onishi has introduced to support the growth and sustainability of the agriculture industry.

Thank you, very much for your time and kokua.

Mahalo Nui Loa...

Ken T Ogawa

Hilo, HI

Personal Testimony Presented before the Committee on
Higher Education
Thursday, January 30, 2014, 2:15pm.
by
James Hollyer

HB 2007 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Chair Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair
Rep. Henry J.C. Aquino, Rep. K. Mark Takai, Rep. Karen Awana, Rep. Roy M.
Takumi, Rep. Faye P. Hanohano, Rep. Lauren Kealohilani Matsumoto, Rep.
Takashi Ohno, Rep. Richard Lee Fale, Rep. Calvin K.Y. Say

My name is James Hollyer, and I lead the On Farm Food Safety / Good
Agricultural Practices Coaching Program at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR). I am pleased to
provide personal testimony on HB 2007. This testimony does not represent the
position of the University of Hawaii or CTAHR.

Chair Choy, Vice Chair Ichiyama, and members of the House Committee on
Education, I 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.

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.

I've been on over 140 farms in Hawaii since our food safety coaching work began
in March 1999. I've seen the types of farmers we have and their educational
needs. CTAHR's LIFE program meets farmers where they are and provides
access to necessary information so they can grow food more effectively,
profitably, and safely. This type of superior service requires dedicated financial
support. I strongly recommend that the legislature make an investment in this
practical program.

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education
Thursday, January 30, 2014; 2:15 pm

Subject: HB 2007 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Dear Chair Choy, Vice Chair Ichiyama, and members of the House Committee on Higher Education,

My name is Andrea Kawabata. I am an extension agent at UH Mānoa. However, today, I am providing personal testimony.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2007, which appropriates \$150,000 to the LIFE Program of the University of Hawaii CTAHR Cooperative Extension Service to support the growth and sustainability of the agriculture industry, effective July 1, 2014.

I 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 Hawaii, 2) integrate more farmers into mainstream agriculture, and 3) help drive Hawaii's diversified agriculture 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 (Aquaponics and Hydroponics Program, Sustainable and Organic Agriculture Program, Ag Incubator Program, Honeybee Program, Basil Swat Team, Hawai'i Tea Project, 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, the Kona Coffee grower organizations, Kau and Palehua coffee cooperatives, Oahu RC&D, Ag Foundation and other public and private organizations.

I have had the privilege of working with the LIFE program and its partners since 2011. In FY2012, I was provided an opportunity to partner as a PI, assisting in the coordination, funding, and support of 44 educational events with 935 producers in attendance state-wide. During this time, LIFE also supported and participated in educational events at industry conferences, expos, festivals, agriculture professional development training seminars, and one-on-one or small group farm doctor visits. As a result, over 3,500 individuals have been made aware of the LIFE program and its events, over 480 attendees reported an increase of knowledge and understanding of LIFE events, and more than 470 intended on further investigating risk management strategies or tools to reduce their farming, business, and personal risks. We had 150

participants in the farm doctor program. Through this program, we assisted in the submission, diagnosis, and provision of solutions to farmers' insect, disease, plant and soil nutrition, etc. problems. The LIFE program has helped coffee growers around the state, to become better educated on coffee berry borer introduction, prevention, identification, and management. Other 2012-2013 educational events included topics on spray coverage, basil pest identification and safe/proper use of pesticides, farm record keeping and business planning, risk management, crop insurance, marketing and value adding, leaf and soil sampling procedures, diamondback moth management and insecticide rotation planning, insect and mite pests of crops, an agcurious field day, downy mildew of basil field day, weed management field demo, and an orchard growers field day. In addition, attendees of LIFE events have the opportunity to learn with the assistance of translators and translated materials.

LIFE is a grant funded effort supported through funding from the USDA and by the efforts of the CTAHR CES faculty team to apply for and obtain extramural grants. HB 2007 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 my strong support for HB 2007.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrea Kawabata', written in a cursive style.

Andrea Kawabata

January 28, 2014

HB 2007: FUNDING OF THE LIFE PROGRAM, UH CTAHR

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the House Committee on Finance, I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB 2007 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 Mānoa, 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.

A common performance indicator used to assess program effectiveness of the LIFE program is the adoption or application of research based technologies. As agricultural Extension professionals, we continuously look for new methodology to increase the application and adoption of research based technologies. *Based on the mean of workshop evaluation survey responses in 2011-2012, growers indicated learning 5-9 new things with potential on farm application, based on a mean score of 2.6 with zero = nothing applicable, 1= 1-2 things that could be applicable, 2=3-4 new things that could be applicable, 3 =5-9 new things that could be applicable, 4= 10 or more new things could be applicable.*

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 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 our strong support for HB 2007.

January 28, 2014

HB 2007: SUPPORT & FUNDING OF THE LIFE PROGRAM, UH CTAHR

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the House Committee on Finance, I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB 2007 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 Jason Shitanishi, and I have actively participated in a number of Local and Immigrant Farmer Education Program outreach events and activities. Today, I am providing personal testimony in SUPPORT of the LIFE program at CTAHR.

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.

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.

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, Food Safety 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.

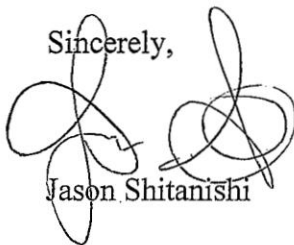
It's long term goal is to assist growers in becoming self-directed, active information seekers and adopters of new research based agricultural advances.

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 our strong support for HB 2007.

Please feel free to phone (808) 206-0713 (cell) or email me at jabo.surf@gmail.com should you have any questions, concerns, or requests for further information.

Sincerely,



Jason Shitanishi

January 28, 2014

Aloha Rep. Onishi,

I am submitting testimony in favor of HB 2007 which provides for an appropriation of \$150,000 to the LIFE program at UH-CTAHR. As a member of the agriculture community in Hawaii I have seen first-hand the impact of this program. The local immigrant farmers that the program serves have, until recently, been generally “off the radar” of most of the public. However, this is a group that produces a large percentage of the food and agricultural products that we consume locally. As such it is important to continue to engage the target farmers by providing them the latest information for crop production, pest and risk management, technology and marketing. The \$150,000 is but a mere fraction of the amount needed to sustain the program and is a direct investment in agriculture in Hawaii. Please do whatever it takes to move this bill forward.

Mahalo.

John McHugh
Mililani

ichiyama2-Fern

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2014 8:23 AM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: kamiyak002@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2007 on Jan 30, 2014 14:15PM

HB2007

Submitted on: 1/29/2014

Testimony for HED on Jan 30, 2014 14:15PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kenneth Y. Kamiya	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Mr. Chairman, members of the committee: My name is Kenneth Kamiya and I a papaya farmer on Oahu. I support HB2007 because this project has been very successful in helping farmers throughout the state of Hawaii. Just as "nature" is always evolving so must farmers be attuned to the latest information and technology to be successful. Please approve this measure. Thank you for this opportunity to comment. Kenneth Kamiya

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

The LIFE program provides excellent, ongoing educational resources for the agricultural community of Hawaii. The program has significant need of support, as activities take place Statewide and some of the instructors are specialists in their fields. The program assists farmers in complying with the law, learning more about various types of agricultural methods and safe handling of food and commodities.

Currently in Hawaii we see strong public interest in agriculture while at the same time seeing a profound misunderstanding of the industry, its needs and practices. That public interest will hopefully translate into investment, furthering the need for a quality educational system like LIFE. Given the low formal educational requirements of entry into the industry, informal programs are the best means to reach established, new and immigrant farmers.

I strongly support funding this program.

I provided no impact on UH budget request.

Sincerely,

Steve Russo
Hawaii Kai

ichiyama2-Fern

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2014 8:43 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: stevenogata@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2007 on Jan 30, 2014 14:15PM

HB2007

Submitted on: 1/28/2014

Testimony for HED on Jan 30, 2014 14:15PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steven Ogata	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: The Local and Immigrant Farmer Education (LIFE) Program administer under the direction of the University of Hawaii at Manoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources is a great outreach program because it provided education and farming assistance to local and immigrant farmers. With the proper education and training immigrant farmers are able to be successful in Hawaii. Being successful= better, safer quality produce for our citizens and more taxes for our State. The Extension Agents and assistants work very hard and smart in getting non-english speaking farmers in operating in the standards that we in the US think is commonplace. Please support this bill. Thank you.

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education
Thursday, January 30, 2014; 2:15 pm
by
Koon-Hui Wang

HB 2007 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Choy, Vice Chair Ichiyama, and members of the House Committee on Higher Education, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2007, which appropriates \$150,000 to the LIFE Program of the University of Hawaii CTAHR Cooperative Extension Service to support the growth and sustainability of the agriculture industry, effective July 1, 2014.

I 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.

My name is Koon-Hui Wang, I am an assistant professor at UH Mānoa. Today, I am providing personal testimony. I serve as the principal investigator for Sustainable Pest Management Program at CTAHR. Our program had teamed up with LIFE program since 2011. We work with many local and immigrant farmers in Hawaii to develop reduced risk or environmental friendly approaches for pest management targeting on immediate pest problems identified by LIFE program. Since the beginning of our collaboration in 2011, we have successfully secured 5 extra mural funds from NRCS, WIPM, and NIFA AFRI programs that are directly addressing the needs of the clients of LIFE program. These extra mural funds help us to conduct research and held workshops and field days related to sustainable pest management. Most recently we are awarded a NIFA AFRI Grant in the Agriculture Economics and Rural Communities: Small and Medium-Sized Farms Program. One of the key activities of this newly funded project is to develop outdoor training class rooms at our experiment stations. Active participation of clients served by LIFE program is the main goal of this AFRI project. LIFE program has helped Sustainable Pest Management program to establish several field trials at growers' farms and experiment stations, all of which not only benefits our outreach programs to local and immigrant farmers but also benefit students enrolled in agricultural classes at CTAHR. Field trips and workshops allow UH higher education to prepare agriculture students for hands on experience and better understanding of farmers' real life dilemma. Therefore, beside other contribution they provide, supporting LIFE program is also crucial for the success of our Sustainable Pest Management program.

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

**Personal Testimony Presented before the
House Committee on Higher Education
For Thursday January 30, 2014
2:15 PM
By: Janice Y. Uchida, PhD**

Bill number: HB 2007 Relating to Agriculture

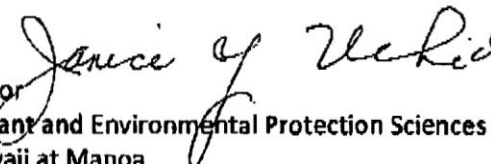
Chair Isaac W. Choy, Vice Chair Linda Ichiyama, and the members of the Higher Education committee:

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, Relating to Agriculture in Hawaii. 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



Personal Testimony Presented before the
House Committees on Agriculture
COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair
Thursday, January 30, 2014
2:15 PM
Conference Room 309
by
Maria Derval C. Diaz-Lyke

HB 2007 Relating to Agriculture

Chair Choy, Vice Chair Ichiyama, and members of the House Committee on Higher Education, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2007, which appropriates \$150,000 to the Local & Immigrant Farmer Education (LIFE) Program of the University of Hawaii CTAHR Cooperative Extension Service to support the growth and sustainability of the agriculture industry, effective July 1, 2014.

My name is Maria Derval C. Diaz-Lyke, and I serve as a Junior Extension Agent and Program Coordinator for the Risk Management Hawaii (RMH) Program with the University of Hawaii at Mānoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (UH-CTAHR). I am pleased to provide personal testimony on HB 2007. This testimony does not represent the position of the University of Hawaii, CTAHR, nor the UH-CTAHR RMH program.

The LIFE program's services are very valuable to farmers. I have direct contact with many growers at our workshops and I have witnessed the increase in their active participation. Directed by their feedback, we shape the scope of educational workshops to best suit their needs. The success of the hands-on, field day workshops are evident from the feedback we hear verbally and from written evaluations after each event.

I strongly support the HB 2007 and hope for your kind consideration to approve this bill.

Sincerely,
Maria Derval C. Diaz-Lyke

2014.01.29 05:17

(808)969-1781H P I A

808 969 1160

PAGE. 1/ 2

LATE TESTIMONY

FAX: 1-800-535-3859

SUBMIT TESTIMONY: HB2007

REGARDLESS OF THIS LATE TESTIMONY I WOULD STILL REQUEST TO HAVE IT SUBMITTED.

I HAD DIFFICULTY WITH MY COMPUTER, HENCE THIS FAX SUBMITTAL.

I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF THIS GETS ROUTED TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION / REPRESENTATIVE RICHARD ONISHI AT THE EARLIEST AVAILABLE.

THANK YOU~

2014.01.29 05:17

(808)969-1781H P I A

808 969 1160

PAGE. 2/ 2

Karen K. Umehara

1865 A Kinohi Street Hilo HI 96720 P (808)981.5688 karenus08@gmail.com

Hawai'i State Legislature
House of Representatives

TO: Committee on Higher Education
HB2007 – TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

LATE TESTIMONY

Good day, Everyone~

I belong to the Membership of the Hawai'i Papaya Industry Association (MPIA). I am also the staff in the office where one of my duties is to inform our growers especially of events, programs, workshops, etc. that are beneficial, informative and not grower intimidating.

The UH CTAHR CES Local Immigrant Farmer Education (LIFE) Program does a great job at all for our papaya growers. The team began with Dr. Sabina F. Swift on Oahu who decided she wanted to include the Big Island knowing there are many Filipino immigrants growing papaya. These papaya growers have been blessed since – beyond her retirement as the LIFE Program continues on.

The Program reaches out to resources that provide educated knowledge and expertise to our growers they themselves would not seek. Many of our growers 'learn' by their neighbor, which is not always the 'best' practice. LIFE affords them the opportunity to come out to hear, see, meet and learn ... for themselves and their livelihood.

More and more new faces are found at our workshops which everyone can claim to be a win-win. They come and are with smiles on their faces showing appreciation to the team players. These team players are committed; love what they're doing and willing to share themselves and their knowledge without a thought of any inconvenience of having to jump on a plane to do so!

Please consider your decision to support not only our papaya growers but all immigrant farmers in agriculture across this wonderful State of Hawai'i by passing HB2007 introduced by Representative Richard Onishi to appropriate \$150,000 to the LIFE Program of our University of Hawai'i CTAHR CES to support the growth and sustainability of the agriculture industry.

Thank you for your time and support.

Much aloha~



Karen K. Umehara

Hilo HI

JAN 29 2014