

HB 2007

LATE

Testimony

Measure Title: RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

Report Title: Appropriation; University of Hawaii; Local and Immigrant Farmer Education Program (§)

Description: Appropriates funds to the Local and Immigrant Farmer Education Program of the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources Cooperative Extension Service to support the growth and sustainability of the agriculture industry. Effective July 1, 2525. (HB2007 HD1)

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: HRE/AGL, WAM

Introducer(s): ONISHI, BROWER, CACHOLA, CHOY, MATSUMOTO, TAKAYAMA, TOKIOKA, WOOLEY

HB2007 HD1: FUNDING OF THE LIFE PROGRAM, UH CTAHR

Chair Taniguchi, Kanahale, Nishihara and Kouchi and members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education and Agriculture. I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HD2007 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 Sabina Fajardo Swift, retired Associate Extension Specialist at the University of Hawaii's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR). I provided science-based agriculture information to Hawaii immigrant and local farmers from 2000 to 2010, supported by the US Department of Agriculture, Environmental Protection Agency and CTAHR. Programs from crop production, soil fertility and use of fertilizers, recordkeeping, crop insurance, insect pest and disease control, pesticide safety education are just a few of the important topics taken up. These programs were delivered in the language of the new immigrant farmer who was English-language challenged, who may not be literate in his/her own language. They knew how to grow crops with minimum knowledge of crop production in this country.

I was trained as an entomologist so I have limited expertise in other areas of crop production. But in order to disseminate all the new science based farm technology, I basically involved successful farmers, federal and state agency representatives, researchers and specialists from CTAHR, and other agriculture consultants who became part of the training team. It was multi-agency approach. It was classroom in the field or where farmers were located! And this cost money, continuous supply of funds USDA supported through their granting programs. And the farmers learned from this outreach strategy that CTAHR and the training team were there for them.

CTAHR Extension pays for salaries of the extension agents with a modest allocation for some relevant projects and travel. But the extension worker, no matter how good and dedicated, does not have funding to handle the training for new and established local farmers and new immigrants with English language difficulty. Even farmers trained 10 years ago come back for more training. They need updates as more resistant crops, new pesticides, new marketing strategies, new ways of doing things could help them. And there was a hunger for new, effective agriculture technologies to control pests and increase production.

I can say diversification of agriculture moved fast forward when the Hawaii Immigrant Farmers Outreach program (now LIFE, Local and Immigrant Farmers Education coordinated by Jari Sugano) at CTAHR was in full throttle. A reputable extension program, farmers were empowered with the program's presence in the field. Farmers became confident. Confident they had LIFE who can help, where they were understood and respected.

It is high time the State pays attention to these immigrant and local farmers (they are the new generation farmers of Hawaii) if sustainability of Hawaii's diversified agriculture is the goal. CTAHR needs support to deliver timely, hands-on, science-based technologies especially now.

Farmers needing help will never end. Training and visiting their fields never ends. So is the need for extension funds, it never ends. I strongly support HB 2007 HDI. If funded, the proposed funds will continue the farmer-accepted reputable LIFE program crucial for Hawaii to attain successful, sustainable agriculture future with happy contributing members of the farm community.

I strongly recommend that this allocation becomes an annual allocation in the state budget. It is time to stop lip service to farmers and agriculture in general.

Thank you and Aloha!

Sabina Fajardo Swift
1640-D O'o Lane
Honolulu, HI 96817
(808) 521-7053



KAKO'O 'ŌIWI

March 13, 2014

To: Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator Ronald D. Kouchi, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture

Date: March 13, 2014

Time: 2:35 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 229, State Capitol

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

Re: **Support of H.B. 2007, HD1 Relating to Agriculture**

I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

H.B. 2007 HD1 appropriates \$150,000 in general funds for 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 H.B. 2007, HD1

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.

H.B. 2007, HD1 and the appropriations requested thereunder will allow the LIFE program and CTAHR to continue to provide critical knowledge and technical support to



KAKO'O 'ŌIWI

resource limited agricultural producers and enable current and future generations of native Hawaiian and other farmers to reconnect with and perpetuate the rich agricultural heritage and traditions of our forebears.

For this reason, we respectfully encourage the Senate Committees on Higher Education and Agriculture to support H.B. 2007, HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support.

Me Ka Ha'aha'a,

Kāko'o 'Ōiwi



Janice-Renee Yoshioka



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HRETestimony](#)
Cc: irisiwami@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2007 on Mar 13, 2014 14:35PM
Date: Wednesday, March 12, 2014 4:33:45 PM

HB2007

Submitted on: 3/12/2014

Testimony for HRE/AGL on Mar 13, 2014 14:35PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Iris Iwami	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support HB2007. The funds will support much needed education and training for our immigrant and less experienced farmers. I have attended several of these sessions. Topics have included pest identification, safe pesticide handling, food safety and marketing. The information presented is relevant and the demonstrations are practical and can be used by the growers. Please pass this important bill.

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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HRETestimony](#)
Cc: enakayama@beihawaii.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2007 on Mar 13, 2014 14:35PM
Date: Wednesday, March 12, 2014 4:44:16 PM

HB2007

Submitted on: 3/12/2014

Testimony for HRE/AGL on Mar 13, 2014 14:35PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elaine Nakayama	Individual	Support	No

Comments: UH CTAHR developed the grass roots program LIFE, local and immigrant farmer educational program. It is amazing how much effort they have put into educating and servicing these farmers in the many facets of crop production. This team of Cooperative Extension Service agents and specialists have an extensive and established network of government and industry partners. It is very important that they continue to educate these people. Knowledge is the key to the success of these farmers and these educators bring to them a great value.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HRETestimony](#)
Cc: ashman.janet@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2007 on Mar 13, 2014 14:35PM
Date: Wednesday, March 12, 2014 10:03:35 PM

HB2007

Submitted on: 3/12/2014

Testimony for HRE/AGL on Mar 13, 2014 14:35PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janet Ashman	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Funding for this innovative, island-wide education program is essential because it supports the many small farmers who have little access to resources and often limited skills, including limited fluency in English. Support for the program translates to a safer, more sustainable, and more food secure Hawaii. Please pass this measure. Thank you.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HRETestimony](#)
Cc: lorie@rustyshawaiian.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2007 on Mar 13, 2014 14:35PM
Date: Wednesday, March 12, 2014 10:07:10 PM

HB2007

Submitted on: 3/12/2014

Testimony for HRE/AGL on Mar 13, 2014 14:35PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lorie Obra	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support HB2007. Thank you! Lorie Obra RUSTY'S HAWAIIAN

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March 12, 2014

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

My name is Lynne Constantinides. Today, I am providing personal testimony.

I have been a private agricultural consultant in Hawaii and have worked with many immigrant farmers throughout the state for over 15 years. Immigrant farmers are considered at-risk due to limited resources, limited access to resources and limited English literacy. Providing education for immigrant farmers to make the right farming decisions is their lifeline to survival and possibly even success!

The Local and Immigrant Farmer Education Program (LIFE) provides essential crop production knowledge and skills through on-farm trainings. This information is delivered in a timely fashion which is critical considering crop production is a dynamic system in which problems need to be addressed quickly. The LIFE program provides an amazing opportunity for Hawaii to give 'grassroots' support to our local farmers. Let's not miss this opportunity.

Aloha,

Lynne Constantinides
Manoa

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HRETestimony](#)
Cc: stevenogata@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2007 on Mar 13, 2014 14:35PM
Date: Thursday, March 13, 2014 7:58:44 AM

HB2007

Submitted on: 3/13/2014

Testimony for HRE/AGL on Mar 13, 2014 14:35PM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments: Please support HB2007 because for many years the LIFE Program has provided assistance to immigrant farmers. The LIFE Program teaches immigrant farmer how to run a farm business, pay taxes, and to be good contributors in our community. LIFE teaches these farmers on how to apply the proper pesticides to their crops and how to get the crops to market. Starting new immigrant farmers out on the right foot starts the healthy building blocks for being good contributors in Hawaii.

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March 12, 2014

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

Chair Taniguchi, Kanahale, Nishihara and Kouchi and members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education and Agriculture, 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 Clyde Fukuyama of Matsuda-Fukuyama Farms. Today, I am providing personal testimony.

An increasing number of immigrant 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.

From: nishihara1 - Amanda
To: [HRETestimony](#)
Subject: FW: Testimony for 3-13 2:35 p.m. hearing on HB2007HD1: Relating to the Local and Immigrant Farmer Education Program
Date: Thursday, March 13, 2014 1:19:29 PM

From: Cheryl Ernst [mailto:ernstwoman@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 1:08 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Subject: Testimony for 3-13 2:35 p.m. hearing on HB2007HD1: Relating to the Local and Immigrant Farmer Education Program

Feb. 25, 2014

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

To: Chair Nishihara and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture
Chair Taniguchi and members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education

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 critical and cost-effective measure for keeping our local food supply safe.

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.

A vibrant local diversified agriculture industry depends on consumer confidence in the foods produced. Many of those willing to do the hard work of farming 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 seldom feel strongly enough about 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 famer 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.

Cheryl Ernst

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HRETestimony](#)
Cc: Mchughj001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2007 on Mar 13, 2014 14:35PM
Date: Thursday, March 13, 2014 7:42:01 PM

HB2007

Submitted on: 3/13/2014

Testimony for HRE/AGL on Mar 13, 2014 14:35PM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments: As an ag professional and farmer in Hawaii for 40 years I cannot overstress the need for the LIFE program. This outreach effort is critical to the success of the immigrant farmers in the ag industry in Hawaii. By serving this sector of ag, valuable information and technology is transferred which is of tremendous assistance in assuring that these farmers understand and follow the laws and regulations associated with farming in the US. In my opinion the funding for this program should be \$500,000/year. However, I support any level of funding that continues this good work!

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