

HB 2180

Testimony

Measure Title:	RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.
Report Title:	New Technologies for Sustainable Agriculture Pilot Project; Appropriation (\$)
Description:	Appropriates funds for a pilot project at the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources at the University of Hawaii at Manoa to create new technologies for sustainable agriculture in the State through scientific research and support services. Effective July 1, 2014. (HB2180 HD1)
Companion:	
Package:	None
Current Referral:	HRE/AGL, WAM
Introducer(s):	ONISHI, AWANA, BROWER, CACHOLA, MATSUMOTO, NAKASHIMA, TAKAYAMA, TOKIOKA, TSUJI, WOOLEY, Choy

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND
AGRICULTURE
THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2014
2:35 P.M.
Conference Room 229**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2180 HD 1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairpersons Taniguchi and Nishihara and Members of the Committees,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2180 HD1 relating to agriculture. This bill appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) for a pilot project to create new technologies for sustainable agriculture in the State through scientific research and support services.

Sustainable agriculture practices are an essential component of food security in Hawaii, and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) is pleased that this measure supports and promotes research on new technologies for sustainable agriculture practices.

The HDOA supports the intent of this bill, but defers to CTAHR as to the appropriate funding amount.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





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March 13, 2014

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 2180, HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 229
2:35 PM

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kouchi, and Members of the Committees:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (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 interests of our diverse agricultural community.

HFB supports the intent of HB 2180, HD1 which appropriates funds for the creation of a pilot project to create new technologies for sustainable agriculture at the University of Hawaii CTAHR through scientific research and support services. We agree that these technologies could benefit Hawaii's agricultural industry, especially as it evolves into the production of new food and energy crops.

Sustainable farming in Hawaii is certainly not a new idea. Most people don't realize that the Hawaii sugar industry was a world leader in sustainable agriculture from its inception well over a century ago. Nothing went to waste; flowing stream water from rainfall is still used today to produce clean renewable hydroelectricity, reducing the use of fossil fuels, before it's used to irrigate the crop. The innovation and use of drip irrigation greatly reduced waste of precious water supplies by allowing the delivery of a precise amount of water directly to the root of the sugarcane plants. Often, water used to wash the cane as it comes into the mill is recycled by sending it back out to the fields to irrigate the next crop. And, after extracting the sugar from the plant, the residual cane fiber, or bagasse, is burned in the mill to produce energy to run the factory and also supply energy to the community.

Development of new farming practices and technologies that improve farming viability, protect the land, and make wise use of the State's natural resources, while hopefully increasing our energy self-sufficiency, is necessary as Hawaii moves to increase its food security. HFB supports the concept of this project and is interested to learn more about its details. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.