

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

KEN H. KAKESAKO
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
TUESDAY APRIL 1, 2014
2:00 P.M.
Room 308
SENATE BILL NO. 2039 HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2039 HD1 relating to agriculture. This bill appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR).

The business of agriculture is not an easy path. Farmers must deal with invasive pests, the high costs of agricultural inputs and complying with various regulations. For farmers to find success they need the proper tools and skill set. Improved education in agricultural sciences and food safety is one way to support successful agriculture in Hawaii.

The Hawaii Department of Agriculture supports the intent of this bill, but defers to CTAHR.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Tuesday, April 1, 2014 at 2:00 pm

by

Maria Gallo, Dean

and

J. Kenneth Grace, Interim Associate Dean

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

SB 2039 HD1 – MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

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 SB 2039 HD1, which appropriates funds to the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, University of Hawai'i, for its cooperative extension service.

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 Legislature and the people of Hawai'i have an increasing sense of urgency with respect to food security. This includes a need for accelerated training to assist new farmers, with an emphasis on farming practices that will decrease Hawai'i's need for imported and expensive farming inputs; and a concomitant need to ensure that appropriate good agriculture practices are followed and safe food reaches our plates. In order to reduce our reliance on imported food, and also ensure that farming in Hawai'i remains a viable occupation, our farmers need to be well-trained in both farm/ranch production methods and in practices that will ensure the safety of the food they produce without increasing production costs unreasonably.

As is stated in Committee Report HSCR2065-14, SB 2039 HD1 supports the Cooperative Extension Service's efforts to provide effective outreach services to the agricultural community throughout the state in the face of increasing needs, while UH CTAHR explores additional, long-term sources of funding.

As reported in HSCR2065-14, an amount of \$520,000 would fund the following Cooperative Extension positions in each county:

- (1) One full-time (1.0 FTE) livestock agent in Maui County;
- (2) One full-time (1.0 FTE) food crops agent in City and County of Honolulu;
- (3) One full-time (1.0 FTE) sustainable agricultural agent in Hawaii County; and
- (4) One full-time (1.0 FTE) sustainable agricultural agent in Kauai County.

Thank you again for the opportunity to express our strong support for SB 2039 HD1.



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April 1, 2014

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON SB 2039, HD1
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COLLEGE OF
TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
SERVICE

Room 308
2:00 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 (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.

HFB stands in strong support of SB 2039, SD1, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) cooperative extension service.

The excellent work performed by UH CTAHR's cooperative extension service cannot be overstated. The ongoing outreach and education is unparalleled in the State. Farmers and ranchers rely on this program for their very success. Please allocate all necessary resources toward this critically important program. Agriculture in Hawaii depends upon it.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure of vital importance.



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Tuesday, April 1, 2014 – 2:00 p.m. – Room 308

Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports SB 2039 HD 1, Making an Appropriation for the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources Cooperative Extension Service

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 SB 2039 HD 1, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) Cooperative Extension Service. Originally, this bill was specifically focused on improving education regarding agricultural sciences and food safety. While we support funding for CTAHR's Cooperative Extension Service, we also support funding for food safety education. One of the greatest challenges facing agricultural enterprises over the next few years is getting compliance with expected new federal food safety regulations. These regulations are expected in summer of 2015 and, with mandated compliance three years later, are likely going to be stricter than the current guidelines. For our farmers and ranchers, navigating the nuances and discovering best practices of food safety is a challenge. Therefore, we need to continue supporting food safety educational training for both the producers and the public's benefit. Without this funding, farmers and ranchers will have few options to learn to comply, which can jeopardize the future of agriculture in Hawai'i.

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



finance1

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 30, 2014 12:53 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: lynhowe1946@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2039 on Apr 1, 2014 14:00PM*

SB2039

Submitted on: 3/30/2014

Testimony for FIN on Apr 1, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lyn Howe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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
Sent: Tuesday, April 01, 2014 7:45 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: amstokes@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2039 on Apr 1, 2014 14:00PM

SB2039

Submitted on: 4/1/2014

Testimony for FIN on Apr 1, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dr. Ashley M. Stokes	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in strong support of SB2039 to fund 4 extension agents within CTAHR. These positions are critical to assisting farmers, ranchers, and others in our communities. We have a great need to increase our manpower and the addition of these 4 positions will make a very noticeable difference. Thank you for your commitment to Hawaii's agriculture and to our communities.

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Sent: Tuesday, April 01, 2014 6:43 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: jimmygomes@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2039 on Apr 1, 2014 14:00PM*

SB2039

Submitted on: 4/1/2014

Testimony for FIN on Apr 1, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jimmy Gomes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: FINTestimony
Cc: afrancokaupo@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2039 on Apr 1, 2014 14:00PM*

LATE

SB2039

Submitted on: 4/1/2014

Testimony for FIN on Apr 1, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alex Franco	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: gregf@haleakalaranch.com
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SB2039

Submitted on: 4/1/2014

Testimony for FIN on Apr 1, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gregory Friel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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LATE

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Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 9:26 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: legechair@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2039 on Apr 1, 2014 14:00PM

SB2039

Submitted on: 3/31/2014

Testimony for FIN on Apr 1, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Simon Russell	Hawaii Farmers Union United	Support	No

Comments: Please pass this measure, Respectfully Simon Russell HFUU Vice President and Legislative Chairman

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To: FINTestimony
Cc: gottlieb@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2039 on Apr 1, 2014 14:00PM

SB2039

Submitted on: 3/31/2014

Testimony for FIN on Apr 1, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Gottlieb	Hawaii Cattlemen's Council	Support	No

Comments: The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council strongly support this bill. A Maui Livestock Agent is one of our top priorities.

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