

JAN 15 2014

---

---

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE.

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

1           SECTION 1. There is appropriated out of the general  
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                    or so  
3 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for  
4 the University of Hawaii, college of tropical agriculture and  
5 human resources cooperative extension service, to improve  
6 education regarding agricultural sciences and food safety.

7           The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of  
8 Hawaii, college of tropical agriculture and human resources, for  
9 the purposes of this Act.

10          SECTION 2. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.

11

INTRODUCED BY:

*Clarence Nishikawa*

*Clarence Nishikawa* M.P.M.

*Clarence Nishikawa*  
*J. Kawai-goff*



# S.B. NO. 2039

**Report Title:**

Appropriation; University of Hawaii College of Tropical  
Agriculture and Human Resources

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii, CTAHR, for its  
cooperative extension service to improve education regarding  
agricultural science and food safety.

*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, March 13, 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 – MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

Chair Choy, Vice Chair Ichiyama, and members of the House Committee on Higher Education, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 2039, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawai'i, CTAHR, for its cooperative extension service to improve education regarding agricultural science and food safety.

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 may 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 ensure that farming in Hawai'i remains a viable occupation in the face of both increased input costs and increased costs associated with farm food safety regulation, while also ensuring that Hawai'i's agricultural products are safe to consume and of high quality requires a two-prong approach on the part of the Cooperative Extension Service: our farmers need to be well-trained in both farm production and in practices that will ensure the safety of the food they produce without increasing production costs unreasonably.

As is stated in Committee Report SSCR2093, SB 2039 will support the Cooperative Extension Service's efforts to provide important educational and informational resources regarding agricultural sciences and food safety while UH CTAHR explores additional, long-term sources of funding. An amount of \$520,000 would fund the following positions:

- (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.

We agree with the request made in SSCR2093 that these funds be allowed to lapse in two years, rather than one.

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

**NEIL ABERCROMBIE**  
Governor



**SCOTT E. ENRIGHT**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**KEN H. KAKESAKO**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

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

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION  
THURSDAY MARCH 13, 2014  
2:00 P.M.  
Room 309  
SENATE BILL NO. 2039  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Choy and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2039 relating to agriculture. This bill appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR)'s cooperative extension service to improve education regarding agricultural sciences and food safety.

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.





HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION  
Thursday, March 13, 2014 – 2:00 p.m. – Room 309

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

Dear Chair Choy, Vice Chair Ichiyama 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**, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources Cooperative Extension Service to improve education regarding agricultural sciences and food safety. 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](mailto:communications@ulupono.com)

