



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 13, 2014

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 2455
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 211
9:30 AM

Aloha Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, 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.

HFBF strongly supports SB 2455, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources to support the 4-H program.

Hawaii's 4-H program is vitally important to the future of agriculture in Hawaii. We can no longer rely solely upon our public education system for education and training of the next generation of sustainable farmers and ranchers. Operating in Hawaii for nearly 100 years, the 4-H has a long history of fulfilling this goal. The passion and direct interaction of volunteer farmers and ranchers with young people will help grow and perpetuate the ranks of the next generation of farmers and ranchers. These organizations address sustainability on social, economic and environmental levels. The 4-H program has a proven track record of not only exposing and educating young people to positive, hands on experience in agricultural production, but is also a program that instills leadership and life skills in a wide variety of projects.

It is clear that we must strongly support agricultural education for our young people if we are to increase Hawai'i's long-term resilience and sustainability.

Please support SB 2455 as a continuing step towards rebuilding the vitality of the 4-H program.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.