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SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

February 5, 2015
8:30 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 312

HOUSE BILL NO. 1039
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE LOCAL AND IMMIGRANT FARMER
EDUCATION PROGRAM

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1039. This bill appropriates money to the Local and Immigrant Farmer Education (LIFE) Program of the UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources Cooperative Extension Service to support the growth and sustainability of the agriculture industry. The Department supports this measure provided it does not adversely affect the priorities within the Administration's budget.

The Department is very much aware of the need for a larger agricultural workforce. The 2012 US Agricultural Census has illustrated the trend of the graying of our agricultural workforce that now has an average age of over 63 years old. There is a dire need to attract new farmers to take up the reins in the agricultural industry. The LIFE Program is one such program with one of its goals being to integrate more farmers into mainstream agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.





UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Agriculture
Thursday, February 5, 2015 at 8:30am

By

Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor

And

Maria Gallo, Dean

And

J. Kenneth Grace, Associate Dean
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 1039 – MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE LOCAL AND IMMIGRANT FARMER EDUCATION PROGRAM

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support, of HB 1039, which makes an appropriation for the Local and Immigrant Farmer Education Program.

We 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 Local and Immigrant Farmer Education (LIFE) Program under the direction of the cooperative Extension Service (CES) faculty within the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR), University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, serves socially disadvantaged and resource-limited producers, including recent immigrants from Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands with limited English skills, Native Hawaiians, and women. The goals of this program are to: (1) increase the viability and sustainability of commercial farms in Hawai'i, (2) integrate more farmers into mainstream agriculture, and (3) help drive Hawaii's diversified industry forward.

The LIFE program has been built on collaborative partnerships and on-farm interactions. Its team-based approach includes collaborative partnerships with CTAHR programs (Risk Management Hawai'i, Aquaponics and Hydroponics Program, Sustainable and Organic Agriculture Program, Ag Incubator Program, Honeybee Program, Basil Swat Team, Hawai'i Tea Program, High Value Vaccinium Project, etc.), statewide Extension agents, 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, Ka'u and Palehua coffee cooperative, O'ahu RC&D, Ag Foundation and other public and private organizations.

The reach of LIFE is statewide. For example, in FY2012, over 80 events were offered on all islands. Training opportunities address all aspects of successful farming, from soil fertility, crop production, aquaponics and pest management (including native-language workshops and educational materials) to distribution and marketing, and risk management with crop insurance. Risk management workshops, in partnership with the

Risk Management Hawai'i program and with external funds provided by the USDA Risk Management agency, have been extremely popular, and have helped disadvantaged farmers to navigate both natural disasters and such devastating invasive pest events as the coffee berry borer.

LIFE is a grant funded effort, initially supported in early years through funding from the US EPA, and the USDA, and in subsequent years by the efforts of the CTAHR CES faculty team to apply for and obtain additional extramural grants.

HB 1039 would provide program support to sustain the LIFE program activities, which have perhaps never been more important than today, at time when food security, self-sufficiency and safety are paramount concerns; and 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.

onishi3 - Timothy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 3:44 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: gottlieb@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1039 on Feb 5, 2015 08:30AM*

HB1039

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for AGR on Feb 5, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

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

Comments:

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To: AGRtestimony
Cc: legechair@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1039 on Feb 5, 2015 08:30AM*

HB1039

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for AGR on Feb 5, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

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

Comments:

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To: AGRtestimony
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Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1039 on Feb 5, 2015 08:30AM*

HB1039

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

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

Comments:

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February 5, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 1039
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE LOCAL AND IMMIGRANT FARMER
EDUCATION PROGRAM

Room 312
8:30 AM

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, and Members of the Committee:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFBF is comprised of 1,932 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 strongly supports HB 1039, which appropriates moneys to the Local and Immigrant Farmer Education Program of the UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources Cooperative Extension Service to support the growth and sustainability of the agriculture industry.

I have had direct experience, through my work with the Ka'u coffee industry with the University of Hawaii's Local and Immigrant Farmer Education (LIFE) program and UH Risk Management-Hawaii (RMH) program. I have witnessed the direct benefit provided by these critically important programs that would be supported by the funding represented in this bill. I have watched first-hand as these programs contributed to the transformation of a community that was generationally dependent on a plantation system to one of empowered independent businessmen and women. These programs provide the tools and knowledge required for underserved and socially disadvantaged producers to be successful in a modern agricultural economy.

The great work exhibited by the track record of these programs cannot be overstated.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure of great importance and we urged you to pass this bill.



Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

Growing the Future of Worldwide Agriculture in Hawaii

TESTIMONY FROM BENNETTE MISALUCHA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In Strong support of HB 1039
Appropriates Moneys for the Local and
Immigrant Farmer Education Program

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

February 5, 2015, 8:30 AM in House conference room 312

Aloha Chair Tsuji and members of the Committee,

My name is Bennette Misalucha, Executive Director of the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association and we are in support of the intent of HB 1039.

We commend the UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resource Cooperative Extension Service for being inclusive in their goal of improving the viability of agricultural farms. Through education, they have been successful in training underserved and socially disadvantaged agriculture producers. However, this program has faced financial challenges ever since its federal funding was eliminated. We join other agricultural sector voices in advocating for a continuation of this good program through the appropriation of state funds.

We humbly ask for the Committee's support of HB 1039.

Mahalo for your kind consideration.

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To: AGRtestimony
Cc: Mchughj001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1039 on Feb 5, 2015 08:30AM

HB1039

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for AGR on Feb 5, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

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

Comments: The LIFE program is crucial to the educational effort for the safe handling of pesticides. Many of the pesticide violations involve local immigrant farmers who do not have access to the resources needed to receive training in modern, safe, agricultural practices. Please support this bill!

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Sent: Monday, February 02, 2015 11:44 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: ncsugano@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1039 on Feb 5, 2015 08:30AM
Attachments: sugano testimony life.docx

HB1039

Submitted on: 2/2/2015

Testimony for AGR on Feb 5, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jari S.K. Sugano	Individual	Support	No

Comments: February 2, 2015 HB 1039: FUNDING OF THE LIFE PROGRAM, UH CTAHR Chair Tsuji Vice Chair Onishi and members of the House Agriculture Committee, I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB1039 Relating to the Local and Immigrant Farmer Education Program at the University of Hawaii, at Manoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. I 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. Let me state from the onset of this testimony that, as a member of the faculty at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, it is important to note that I support the prioritization process that the administration utilizes to establish their annual budgetary request to the legislature and can only advocate for additional funding of university programs if it does not negatively impact existing requests that are included in the executive budget. My name is Jari Sugano and I am a County Extension Agent and statewide program coordinator for the LIFE program at UH Manoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. Today, I am providing personal testimony. 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. Many of our farmers prefer a one-on-one or close-knit small group learning environment because they are easily intimidated by government agencies and shy to discuss their problems in front of others. Establishment of a non-threatening environment is very critical to farmers with limited English proficiency. You will rarely see LIFE cooperators at the capitol or written testimony from our clientele. Our clientele reside in rural, underserved, and limited resource areas of Hawaii. We service our clientele through a team-based and grass-roots approach 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. HB1039 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 1039 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 1039.

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Personal Testimony Presented before the
House Committee on Agriculture
February 5, 2015 at 8:30 am
by
Douglas L. Vincent, Ph.D., P.A.S.

HB 1039 – MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE LOCAL AND IMMIGRANT FARMER EDUCATION PROGRAM

Personal Testimony in Favor of HB 1039

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi and members of the committee

My name is Douglas L. Vincent and I am a Professor and Animal Scientist in the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources in the Department of Human Nutrition, Food and Animal Sciences. I am also a former Department Chair. I am pleased to provide personal testimony on HB 1039. This testimony does not represent the position of the University of Hawaii or the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources.

The Local and Immigrant Farmer Education (LIFE) Program is a wonderful program that supports our farmers and provides learning opportunities for new farmers. This is especially important for immigrant farmers who may not fully understand all of the ramifications and regulations to being a successful farmer. The LIFE program of the Cooperative Extension Service of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources has been an extraordinary success educating our new farmers, providing them with gateways to financial success. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1039.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 04, 2015 8:21 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: ashman.janet@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1039 on Feb 5, 2015 08:30AM

HB1039

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for AGR on Feb 5, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

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

Comments: Pesticide use in Hawaii has recently become an issue of concern among the public. Please support this necessary program that, among other things, reaches the growing local and immigrant farmer population who may not otherwise have the training or means to fully comprehend and comply with pesticide regulations. Thank you.

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To: AGRtestimony
Cc: darakawa@lurf.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1039 on Feb 5, 2015 08:30AM

HB1039

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

Testimony for AGR on Feb 5, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Z. Arakawa	Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments: The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii is in strong SUPPORT of HB 1039, which proposes to appropriate moneys to the Local and Immigrant Farmer Education Program of the UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources Cooperative Extension Service to support the growth and sustainability of the agriculture industry.

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