

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/18/2015
Time: 02:00 PM
Location: 309
Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0853, HD1 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes a K-12 Agriculture Workforce Development Pipeline Initiative in DLIR to conduct trainings for teachers and school administrators in agricultural self-sufficiency. Appropriates funds to support the Initiative. (HB853 HD1)

Department's Position:

The Department of Education supports the intent of HB 853 HD1 to establish a K-12 agriculture workforce development pipeline initiative to guide training for teachers and school administrators in agricultural self-sufficiency, but defers to DLIR.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
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**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

February 18, 2015
2:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 309

HOUSE BILL NO. 853 HD 1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Takumi and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 853 HD 1. This bill establishes a K-12 agriculture workforce development pipeline initiative in the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) to conduct trainings for teachers and school administrators in agricultural self-sufficiency. The Department supports this bill but would defer to the DLIR.

The Department has been participating in the Agriculture Workforce Advisory Board that was created by Act 99, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013. Along with the DLIR, Department of Education, University of Hawaii, Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, and a representative from the farming community, discussions have been held to find ways to increase our current agricultural workforce. Recent numbers from the 2012 US Agricultural Census has found the average age of farmers in Hawaii is over 63 years old. It is the Department's goal to reverse this trend and we look forward to continued collaboration with our brother and sister agencies and the public to achieve this goal.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.





**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

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February 13, 2015

To: The Honorable Roy M. Takumi, Chair,
The Honorable Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair, and
Members of the House Committee on Education

Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2015
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 309, State Capitol

From: Elaine Young, Acting Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

Re: H.B. No. 853 HD1 Relating to Agriculture

I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

HB853 HD1 adds a new section to Chapter 371, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), which establishes within the department a k-12 agriculture workforce development pipeline initiative to conduct training on all islands for teachers and school administrators regarding agricultural self-sufficiency. The bill includes establishment of a coordinator position and necessary staff to carry out this initiative.

The HD1 amended this measure by changing the appropriation amount to an unspecified sum and the effective date to January 20, 2050 to encourage further discussion.

The department supports this bill provided its passage does not replace or adversely affect priorities identified in the Executive Budget.

II. CURRENT LAW

Chapter 371-19 established the Hawaii Agricultural Workforce Advisory Board to advise the department on developing the next generation of agricultural workers; developing a mission, objectives, and goals of the Board; developing partnerships to further goals of the Board; supporting local chapters of FFA; and recommending projects that expand the agricultural workforce in Hawaii.

III. COMMENTS ON THE HOUSE BILL

The Agricultural Workforce Advisory Board was an outgrowth from a series of Agricultural Skill Panels convened on all counties in 2013. Over 600 stakeholders collectively identified issues regarding expansion of the agricultural workforce and developed recommendations for their resolution. The Hawaii Agricultural Workforce Advisory Board reviewed Skill Panel recommendations contained in the Hawaii Agriculture Skill Panel Report and recommended the language reflected in this bill. The biggest potential source of agricultural workers is Hawaii's youth, therefore, the Board focused on widening the pipeline of students to the agricultural workforce.

Interest in agriculture is waning among Hawaii youth because they have an inaccurate perception of farming as a low-paying, low-skilled trade and are not aware of the increasingly technical nature of jobs in the industry. To update teachers and school administrators about the current state of agricultural jobs, this bill proposes to provide them training, with exposure to real-life settings for students and teachers. The intended result is to generate interest and excitement for jobs in agriculture that can be passed on to students and promote expansion of the agricultural workforce.

For these reasons, the department supports this bill provided sufficient funds are appropriated and its passage does not replace or adversely affect priorities identified in the Executive Budget.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Education
Wednesday, February 18, 2015 at 2:00 pm

By

Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor

And

Maria Gallo, Dean

And

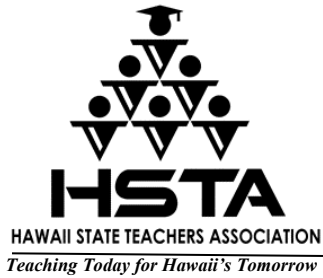
J. Kenneth Grace, Associate Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 853 HD1 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and members of the House Committee on Education, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 853 HD1, which establishes a k-12 agriculture workforce development pipeline initiative in the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to conduct trainings for teachers and school administrators in agricultural self-sufficiency.

HB 853 HD1 will implement the recommendation of the Hawai'i agriculture workforce advisory board, of which the Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, is a member. Although we defer to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations on the fiscal and management implications of HB 853 HD1, we believe that implementation of this recommendation will greatly assist in the development of an educated and well-trained agricultural workforce in Hawai'i, and complements such related efforts as Future Farmers of America, 4-H, and Farm to School programming.

Should HB 853 HD1 be considered a viable approach by the legislature and the referenced departments, we will be glad to continue to work, as our resources permit, with all the parties concerned to promote agricultural workforce development and further the goal of agricultural self-sufficiency in Hawai'i.



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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Wil Okabe
President
Joan Kamila Lewis
Vice President
Colleen Pasco
Secretary-Treasurer
Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

DATE: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2015

RE: H.B. 853, H.D. 1 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

PERSON TESTIFYING: WIL OKABE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

The Honorable Chair Roy Takumi, Honorable Vice Takashi Ohno and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Hawai'i's 13,500 public and public charter school teachers, The Hawai'i State Teachers' Association is in **support of H.B. 853, H.D. 1.**

We are an island state with a long history of connection to the land that predates western contact. Throughout Hawai'i's history, the land and that which that land produces has been essential in the sustainability of our people and our economy.

In recent history, our "disconnect" with the land and our almost sole reliance on food from other shores has put our citizens in a precarious state. While we are all closely monitoring the labor dispute related to shipping to Hawai'i and its potential impact on our food supplies, we are also aware of the growing number of food recalls that are also occurring.

Support of these bills will provide an opportunity for Hawai'i's citizens, including its youngest, school aged citizens to learn how to mitigate some of these challenges while learning how to reconnect with the land.

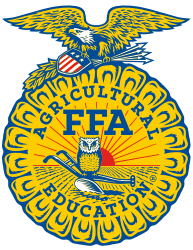
In providing opportunities for students to ultimately participate in Farm to School initiatives that may help them learn to grow fruits and vegetables in small areas, we help them understand that small steps can provide big outcomes.

In helping our teachers better learn how to support and teach towards sustainability, we make it more likely for Hawai'i to become more self-sustaining.

There is no end to the value of supporting FFA and 4-H programs. Many of our most notable leaders share the foundation that these programs have provided.

HSTA supports the concept of living and promoting sustainability. We know that the best leaders are our students. As such, we are in **support of H.B. 853 H.D. 1.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



The National FFA Organization
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Indianapolis, IN 46268

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February 17, 2015

Honorable Chairperson Takumi, Honorable Vice Chair Ohno, and distinguished members of the Committee on Education:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB853. As the state relations specialist for Hawaii from the National FFA Organization, I'm pleased to see to see this bill advance through the state legislature and urge you to support it.

The National FFA Organization prides itself and our network of 52 state associations for our success in workforce development. We offer free access to the nation's largest online database of agriculture career information and we are the national leader in providing professional development for secondary agriculture teachers. We want to help grow and engage the network of agricultural educators in Hawaii. Your support of this bill will certainly help address the workforce need in agriculture and we stand ready to help support and professionally develop the teachers who will interact with Hawaii's youth.

The National FFA Organization and The Council for Agriculture Education believe in the three-component model for the delivery of our content. This time-tested and academically-proven model requires investment above the normal school funding level. Funding HB853 is an excellent step forward in making it possible to offer all three components of agriculture education as part of growing a skilled and knowledgeable workforce.

I thank you for considering this bill and its associated funding request. Growing a workforce of educated and highly skilled citizens is a laudable goal. Engaging secondary agriculture education programs across Hawaii makes sense and the National FFA Organization is ready to support your work with our full network of resources and teacher training opportunities.

Educating students about the local food movement and sustainability is a part of what we teach and offer as a national organization. We work with national leaders in agriscience and sustainability to offer training to our teachers as we work to stay on leading edge of agricultural education.

The National FFA Organization looks forward to continuing to support agriculture education and FFA in Hawaii and will continue to provide professional development for teachers and state staff as requested. Thank you for considering this important investment in agricultural education and workforce development at your state level.

Sincerely,

Ben Meyer
Western US Specialist
National FFA Organization



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February 18, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

TESTIMONY ON HB 853, HD 1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 309
2:00 PM

Aloha Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, 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 853 HD 1 which establishes a k-12 agriculture workforce development pipeline initiative in Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) to conduct trainings for teachers and school administrators in agricultural self-sufficiency.

DLIR, under Director Takamine's and HDOA Chair Kokubun's leadership, undertook a series of facilitated meetings with farmers, ranchers, educators and a diverse group of stakeholders across the state between 2007 and 2011, when its report was published. This report: Hawaii Agriculture Skill Panel Report, made a number of recommendations, of which several common themes emerged. #1 of those themes is 'Increasing youth education and training'.

It is common knowledge that the average age of a farmer in Hawaii is about 60 years old. For agriculture to be sustainable, and to produce more local crops we, as a society, must cultivate the next generation of farmers and ranchers.

In 2013, the Hawaii State Legislature saw fit to establish the Agriculture Workforce Advisory Board via HB 749 of that year. This Board convened, in part, to execute the recommendations of Hawaii Agriculture Skill Panel Report. This bill, HB 853, is a product of the Advisory Board. It establishes a program by which educators and school administrators can be exposed and incentivized to adopt existing agricultural curriculums. This is an important first step toward the future of agriculture in Hawaii.

Please give HB 853 your strong support. Mahalo!

HB853

Submitted on: 2/17/2015

Testimony for EDN on Feb 18, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Redfeather	Hawaii Island School Garden Network	Comments Only	No

Comments: Aloha Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee, I participated in 3 of the Agriculture Skills Panel Forums that were held at five venues across the state in 2013. I also carefully read the report that was issued in May 2013, "Hawaii Agriculture Skill Panel Report." I thought the report did an excellent job at summarizing the recommendations of the people who attended. There was consensus, that the general perception of agriculture as a career needed bolstering, and that youth education was key in changing our food and agriculture future. I have worked with a Statewide Hui of partners to bring resources, funding, and professional development to school gardens across Hawaii for the past 8 years. In the latest SAWS Survey (Safety and Wellness Survey) conducted by the Department of Health from school year 2012-2013, 192/241 schools have school gardens, 88% use it daily for instructional purposes and 68% use the garden for the sciences and STEM. So clearly there is interest. From our 2012 Hawaii Farm to School and School Garden Hui (HFSSGH) DOE Survey of School Gardens, over 21,577 students, 830 teachers, and 1,500 regular volunteers who work over 1,000 hours per week, work with our youth to grow food, natives, trees, flowers, and herbs on over 30 acres of land across the state. Funding for a school garden educator position and equipment needs were identified as the highest priorities of the 168 schools that took the survey. Broader community involvement and cultivating sustainability were their highest vision priorities. The vision that is held for school garden programs, and Farm to School Programs is a very different vision than creating a "workforce pipeline initiative for agriculture." School Garden programs connect our youth with healthy food and healthy lifestyles, and offer the agriculture sciences and sustainability/environmental education that will engage and excite our youth to go to college and study these green job futures. Some of them will choose to be farmers, and all of them will know how to grow for their future families health and wellness. Some of them may work on farms. That is a very different view than creating agricultural field workers. I totally support the idea of helping to train workers for food production, but that would be more appropriate in grades 9-20. The younger students are still full of wonder, innovation, and need to be challenged to connect their studies in the classroom with the real world of whole systems in the school gardens. Let's work together to make both a reality Hawai'i. We are all working to create more capacity for agriculture in Hawai'i. Mahalo, Nancy Redfeather Director: Hawai'i Island School Garden Network State Supervisor: FoodCorps Hawai'i The Kohala Center



HPCCA

HAWAII PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

House Committee on Education

The Hon. Roy M. Takumi, Chair

The Hon. Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair

Testimony on House Bill 853 HD1

Relating to Agriculture

Submitted by Nani Medeiros, Public Affairs and Policy Director

February 18, 2015, 2:00 pm, Room 309

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA), which represents the federally qualified community health centers in Hawaii, supports House Bill 853, establishing a k-12 agriculture workforce development pipeline initiative.

The HPCA is a staunch believer in the social determinants of health, those economic and social conditions that influence an individual and a community's health status. These conditions serve as risk factors endemic to a person's living and working environment, rather than their behavioral or genetic histories. Factors such as income, education, access to recreation and healthy foods, housing, and employment, can and do have measurable impacts on a person and a community, both in health and financial outcomes.

House Bill 853 speaks to several of these social determinants by (1) seeking to expand working knowledge for Hawaii's youth, (2) promote the production of healthy, local foods, and (3) develop an active agriculture workforce.

For these reasons, we strongly support this measure and thank you for the opportunity to testify.

February 16, 2015

TO: Chair Rep. Roy Takumi, Vice Chair Rep. Takashi Ohno and
members of the Education Committee

FROM: David Fuertes,
Retired DOE Agriculture Education
Former Executive Director Hawaii State FFA Foundation
Natural Farmer & Rancher Hawaii Island

RE: HB 853 Relating to Agriculture

I am in support of this HB 853 which establishes a K-12 training teachers and administrators in agricultural self-sufficiency. I am a true believer in empowering people with the skills necessary to be self-sufficient beginning with our youth. As a former Agriculture teacher of over 30 years in this State, I have been proud to see former students become the Leaders in my community and great State of Hawaii.

Teachers and administrators are the greatest influence in each child's future. That's why I believe in "training the trainers" concept to give them the tools by which to bring about a new generation of agriculturalist in best practices, enabling them to become leaders in our community. It is dire that we as an island state, be more self-sufficient in food resiliency and more importantly to reach out to all residents educating them in "Kuleana of our land." Education is a means to this end.

Please consider creating these opportunities via HB 853.

Mahalo,

HB853

Submitted on: 2/16/2015

Testimony for EDN on Feb 18, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimomi Dierks	Individual	Support	No