

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI
SUPERINTENDENT

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

Date: 02/26/2015
Time: 01:30 PM
Location: 308
Committee: House Finance

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.



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

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
www.hawaii.gov/labor
Phone: (808) 586-8842 / Fax: (808) 586-9099
Email: dlir.director@hawaii.gov

February 24, 2015

To: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair,
The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, and
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Date: Thursday, February 26, 2015
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 308, 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 proposes to add 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 Agricultural Workforce Advisory Board produced the \$500,000 estimate to start the program, which was vetted by the DLIR. 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 Future Farmers of

America; 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.

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
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 FINANCE

February 26, 2015
1:30 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 308

HOUSE BILL NO. 853 HD 1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Luke 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.





UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Thursday, February 26, 2015 at 1:30 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 Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and members of the House Committee on Finance, 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 Hawaii 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.

finance1-Kim

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2015 9:25 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: darakawa@lurf.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB853 on Feb 26, 2015 13:30PM

HB853

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 308

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 SUPPORTS HB 853, HD1, Relating to Agriculture, which 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)

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House Committee on Finance

The Hon. Sylvia Luke, Chair

The Hon. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Testimony on House Bill 853 HD1

Relating to Agriculture

Submitted by Nani Medeiros, Public Affairs and Policy Director

February 26, 2015, 1:30 pm, Room 308

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.

The Twenty-Eighth Legislature
Regular Session of 2015

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Committee on Finance
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair
State Capitol, Conference Room 308
Thursday, February 26, 2015; 1:30 p.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON H.B. 853, HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

The ILWU Local 142 supports H.B. 853, HD1, which establishes a K-12 Agriculture Workforce Development Program Initiative in DLIR to conduct training for teachers and school administrators in agricultural self-sufficiency.

Hawaii needs a diversified economy that is not dependent on a single industry. Agriculture can play a major role in a diversified economy, but developing a workforce interested in agriculture will become the challenge. The K-12 Agriculture Workforce Development Pipeline Initiative will help teachers and school administrators see the value of agriculture not only for the jobs they can provide but to help Hawaii achieve food self-sufficiency.

The ILWU urges passage of H.B. 853, HD1. Thank you for considering our testimony.



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 26, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 853, HD 1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 308
1:30 PM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, 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!



The National FFA Organization
6060 FFA Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46268

P 317-802-4347
F 317-802-5357
www.ffa.org

February 25, 2015

Chairperson Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and distinguished members of the Committee on Finance:

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

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 25, 2015 10:00 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: leimomikekina@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB853 on Feb 26, 2015 13:30PM*

HB853

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimomi Dierks	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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