

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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

March 13, 2015
2:45 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 414

HOUSE BILL NO. 995
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Ruderman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 995. This bill appropriates funds for fiscal year 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 to be expended by the Department of Education (DOE) for the implementation and operation of the Future Farmers of America (FFA) to educate and support youth in agricultural careers. The Department supports the bill provided it does not adversely impact the priorities in the Administration's budget.

This bill would allow the FFA, whose history in Hawaii began in 1928, to continue their work to encourage students to pursue careers in farming and ranching through hands-on education and workforce development in the agricultural sector. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture supports this bill, but defers to the DOE.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to testify.





UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture
Tuesday, March 17, 2015 at 2:45 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 995 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Ruderman, Vice Chair Riviere, and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support with a suggested amendment of HB 995, which appropriates funds to support the Future Farmers of America and the 4-H youth education programs.

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. We note that our support includes a suggestion to amend the funding provision for 4-H to provide a grant to the 4-H Foundation at this time, rather than an appropriation for this purpose to the University of Hawai'i.

Future Farmers of America is a valued youth agricultural education program, under the direction of the Department of Education. We will defer to the Department of Education for discussion of the FFA program, and of that section of HB 995.

4-H, under the direction of the 4-H Foundation, volunteer committees, and the Cooperative Extension Service faculty within the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR), University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, is one of the oldest programs of non-formal education in Hawai'i. 4-H assists young people age 5-19 in developing life skills and in forming attitudes that will enable them to become self-directing, productive, and contributing members of society, and touches approximately 35,000 young people annually throughout the State of Hawai'i. The four H's stand for Head, Heart, Hands, and Health. 4-H projects in livestock and crop education are well-known and very successful, 4-H members may also learn about food and nutrition, clothing, health, safety, the environment, and leadership. As a future-looking organization, 4-H's new programs even range from aerospace to theatrics to food safety.

At present, the 4-H program in Hawai'i is in a process of some reorganization. With support from CTAHR, the 4-H Foundation, with support from 4-H volunteers, has taken on new responsibilities and thus new costs, to address changes in tax code, in addition to their primary function as the funding arm for the 4-H program.

For that reason, rather than an appropriation to the University of Hawai'i at this particular time, we suggest that it would be most valuable to amend this section of HB 995 to provide any funding this session in the form a grant to the 4-H Foundation, as the funding body for the program. This request for amendment in no way reflects any change in the continuing support of the University of Hawai'i for the 4-H program. In fact, we are in the process of recruiting additional faculty for the program. It is simply a matter of allocation of resources in the most effective manner to support the program at the present time.



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

Date: 03/17/2015
Time: 02:45 PM
Location: 414
Committee: Senate Agriculture

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0995 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

Purpose of Bill: Appropriates unspecified sums to the Future Farmers of America program and the 4-H program to educate and support youth in agriculture careers.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) testimony is limited to Section 2 of HB 995 which appropriates funds to the Department for the implementation and operation of the Future Farmers of America program.

The Department supports the intent of HB 995 provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: gottlieb@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB995 on Mar 17, 2015 14:45PM
Date: Saturday, March 14, 2015 11:55:14 AM

HB995

Submitted on: 3/14/2015

Testimony for AGL on Mar 17, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments: My name is Alan Gottlieb, and I am a rancher and the Government Affairs Chairperson of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc. (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the five county level Cattlemen's Associations. Our 130+ member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of approximately 25% of the State's total land mass. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council supports This measure. We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

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The National FFA Organization
6060 FFA Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46268

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

March 16, 2015

Chairperson Ruderman, Vice Chair Riviere, and distinguished members of the Committee on Agriculture:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB995. 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 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 in all 50 states and both US territories that offer FFA and agriculture education. Funding HB995 is an excellent step forward in making it possible to offer all three components of agriculture education at a meaningful and impactful level in Hawaii schools.

I can easily confirm that Hawaii has some of the most knowledgeable and passionate agriculture teachers in the nation. The National FFA Organization wants to continue providing professional development for agriculture/natural resource teachers and leadership opportunities for Hawaii FFA members. We are committed to doing our part to continue our 85+ year relationship and we look forward to working with agriculture/natural resource education leaders in Hawaii to do the same. Funding of HB995 is a key part of this continued success and relationship.

In closing, I thank you for considering this bill and its associated funding request. Offering high quality agriculture education does require state investment. Thankfully, I can assure you that Hawaii agriculture teachers are outstanding educators who will be good stewards of state funds in enhancing their programs and developing 21st century leaders in the renewable food, fiber, and energy systems that our world depends on.

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 agriculture/natural resource education at your state level.

Sincerely,

Ben Meyer
Western US Specialist
National FFA Organization



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

March 17, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 995
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 414
2:45 PM

Aloha Chair Ruderman, Vice Chair Riviere, 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 supports HB 995 which appropriates funds to the FFA program and the 4-H program to educate and support youth in agriculture careers.

Hawaii's FFA and 4-H programs are vitally important to the future of agriculture in Hawaii. FFA and 4-H have a long history. 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 FFA and 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 HB 995 towards rebuilding the vitality of the 4-H and FFA programs.

We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.



HPCCA

HAWAII PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

Senate Committee on Agriculture

The Hon. Russell E. Ruderman, Chair

The Hon. Gil Riviere, Vice Chair

Testimony on House Bill 995

Relating to Agriculture

Submitted by Nani Medeiros, Public Affairs and Policy Director

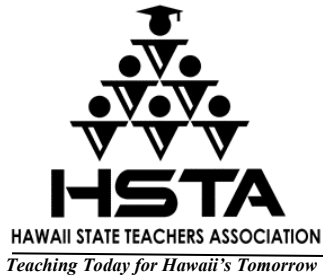
March 17, 2015, 2:45 pm, Room 414

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCCA), which represents the federally qualified community health centers in Hawaii, supports House Bill 995, which appropriates monies to the FFA and 4-H programs.

The HPCCA 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 995 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



1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Tel: (808) 833-2711 ♦ Fax: (808) 839-7106 ♦ Web: www.hsta.org

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

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

DATE: TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2015

RE: H.B. 995 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

PERSON TESTIFYING: JOAN LEWIS, VICE-PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

The Honorable Chair Russell Ruderman, Honorable Vice Gil Riviere 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. 995**.

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. 995**.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

House Bill 995 - SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Ruderman, Vice Chair Riviere and Members of the Committee:

I am Mark Phillipson, Corporate Affairs Lead for Syngenta Hawaii. Syngenta Hawaii supports HB 995 which appropriates funds to the FFA program and the 4-H program to educate and support youth in agriculture careers.

Contrary to what many may believe, it is not a shortage of land or water resources that poses the biggest challenge to Hawaii agriculture; it is a shortage of young people interested in agricultural careers. The average age of Hawaii farmers is greater than 60. And as our older farmers and ranchers retire, there are not enough young people interested in agricultural careers to replace them.

For this reason, as well as others, Hawaii's FFA and 4-H programs are vitally important to the future of agriculture in Hawaii. When young people are able to directly interact with volunteer farmers and ranchers and experience first-hand their love of raising crops and animals to increase the bounty of our lands it cannot help but increase the number of new farmers and ranchers. The FFA and 4-H program have a proven track record of not only exposing and educating young people to positive, hands on experience in agricultural production, but they are also programs that instill leadership and life skills beyond the immediate agricultural vocations.

If we want farming and ranching to be part of our future in Hawaii, we must strongly support agricultural education for our young people. Accordingly, Syngenta Hawaii urges the committee to pass this legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: amybrinker@mac.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB995 on Mar 17, 2015 14:45PM*
Date: Sunday, March 15, 2015 12:54:28 PM

HB995

Submitted on: 3/15/2015

Testimony for AGL on Mar 17, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy Brinker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: diane.ragone@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB995 on Mar 17, 2015 14:45PM*
Date: Friday, March 13, 2015 4:08:23 PM

HB995

Submitted on: 3/13/2015

Testimony for AGL on Mar 17, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Diane Ragone	Individual	Support	No

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Cc: leimomikekina@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB995 on Mar 17, 2015 14:45PM*
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HB995

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

Comments:

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