

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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Deputy to the Chairperson

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. 995
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Tsuji 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.

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 in support of House Bill 995.





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 995 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support with amendment requested, 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 request to amend the funding provision for 4-H to provide a grant to the 4-H Foundation, 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 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 has taken on new responsibilities to address changes in tax code, in addition to their primary function as the funding arm for the 4-H program.

Rather than appropriating funds for the 4-H program to the University of Hawai'i at this particular time, we believe it would be most valuable to amend this section of HB 995 to provide any funding in the form of a grant to the 4-H Foundation, as the funding body for the program.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 1:29 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: cathyg@animalrightshawaii.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB995 on Feb 5, 2015 08:30AM

HB995

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
Cathy Goeggel	Animal Rights Hawai'i	Oppose	No

Comments: HB995 Position: oppose Animal Rights Hawai'i opposes the expenditure of taxpayer monies for 4-H and FFA organizations that engage in promoting unrealistic goals for young people who raise and then auction off animals at county and state fairs. The inflated prices paid by bidders that include banks, feed companies and restaurants, are far higher than a normal market, and of course, are wise business moves. It is obvious that livestock agriculture in Hawai'i survives only through infusions of financial support from government. We call upon you, the Agriculture Committee, to put an end to the myth that there is any future in livestock farming in Hawai'i beyond your annual welfare donations. Cathy Goeggel President

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onishi3 - Timothy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 02, 2015 8:02 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: gottlieb@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB995 on Feb 5, 2015 08:30AM*

HB995

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
Alan Gottlieb	Hawaii Cattlemen's Council	Support	No

Comments:

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February 5, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 995
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

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 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.



HPCA

HAWAII PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

House Committee on Agriculture

The Hon. Clift Tsuji, Chair

The Hon. Richard H.K. Onishi, Vice Chair

Testimony on House Bill 995

Relating to Agriculture

Submitted by Robert Hirokawa, Chief Executive Officer

February 5, 2015, 8:30 am, Room 312

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA), 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 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 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.



Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

Growing the Future of Worldwide Agriculture in Hawaii

TESTIMONY FROM BENNETTE MISALUCHA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In Strong support of HB 995
Appropriates moneys to the Future Farmers
Of America and 4-H Programs

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 direct support of the intent of HB 995.

The average age of a farmer in the United States is 57; in Brazil, 52; in Africa, 60. Even those involved in agricultural research are approaching retirement age. To say that agriculture has an image problem and cannot attract young people, is an understatement.

There is a need to invest in the future of agriculture by funding well-established programs like Future Farmers of America and 4-H. Both programs have an excellent track record for “providing a path to achievement in **premier leadership, personal growth and career success** through agricultural education.”

We join our fellow members in the agriculture sector in advocating for resources that would bring this worthwhile goal into fruition.

We humbly ask for the Committee’s support of HB 995.

Mahalo for your kind consideration.

HCIA 2014-2016 Board of Directors

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 04, 2015 7:18 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: mgalimba@kuahiwiranch.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB995 on Feb 5, 2015 08:30AM

HB995

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
Michelle Galimba	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Please support 4-H and FFA programs by all means possible. These programs encourage young farmers and ranchers to build their skills and to develop leadership potential.

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onishi3 - Timothy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 04, 2015 4:13 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: leimomikekina@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB995 on Feb 5, 2015 08:30AM*

HB995

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
Leimomi Dierks	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 05, 2015 1:42 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: darakawa@lurf.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB995 on Feb 5, 2015 08:30AM

HB995

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 995, which proposes to appropriate unspecified sums to the Future Farmers of America program and the 4-H program to educate and support youth in agriculture careers.

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Thursday, February 5, 2015 – 8:30 a.m. – Room 312

RE: HB 995 - Relating to Agriculture – In Strong Support

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

The Local Food Coalition strongly supports HB 995, which requests an appropriation to help build the next generation of Hawai'i agriculture leaders by helping to fund Future Farmers of America (FFA) and the 4-H program, and support their future careers in agriculture. The average age of a Hawai'i farmer is 60 years old. Therefore, to ensure the viability of the local agricultural industry, more young people need to develop the interest and skills required for a career in agriculture.

The Local Food Coalition recognizes the vital importance of FFA and 4-H programs with their long history of educating and training the sustainable farmers and ranchers of our community. FFA and 4-H programs help address sustainability on social, economic and environmental levels as they provide hands-on help in providing the next generation with the practical tools they need to succeed. Supporting these organizations will help revitalize local agriculture by providing the experience and skills needed to take on the rigorous but rewarding work faced by farmers and ranchers in Hawai'i.

The Local Food Coalition is pleased to support proposals designed to help grow more local food. Our group's members came together with one common goal: to promote the local production of food in a sustainable and economically sound manner to benefit Hawai'i's people through the revitalization and expansion of our state's agricultural sector. This year the Coalition is continuing to pursue this comprehensive approach because it is the most effective way for Hawai'i to develop its resources for diversified food production, as well as lessen its dependence on importing that which can be grown, raised and processed locally.

We believe that working together we can help produce more local food, support an economically strong homegrown agriculture industry, which strengthens our community with fresh, healthy food.

We respectfully ask for your support of HB 995. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Lori Lum
808-544-8343
llum@wik.com

4 Ag Hawai'i
Hawai'i Aquaculture &
Aquaponics Association
Hawai'i Association of
Independent Schools
Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council
Hawai'i Farm Bureau
Federation
Hawai'i Farmers' Union
United
Hawai'i Food Industry
Association
Hawai'i Food
Manufacturers Association
Kohala Center
Malama Kaua'i
Maui School Garden
Network
Ulupono Initiative

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 04, 2015 4:24 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: evensen@hawaii.edu
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
Carl Evensen	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The LIFE program provides unique and extremely valuable services to small scale local and immigrant farm families in Hawaii. These hard working and underserved farmers often have trouble reading pesticide labels, complying with environmental or food safety regulations and generally learning about good agricultural practices. LIFE has provide these valuable services through grant funding for the past decade, but now that funding has dried up, has had to close down their programs. State legislative funding to keep this program alive would be a tremendous benefit to these farmers as well as to food safety in Hawaii.

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