

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 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.

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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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. 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.





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 995 – 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 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, 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 believe 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. It is simply a matter of allocation of resources in the most effective manner to support the program at the present time.



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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

DATE: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2015

RE: H.B. 995 – 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. 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 COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Wednesday, February 18, 2015 – 2:00 p.m. – Room 309

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

Dear Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno 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. 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
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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



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February 18, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

TESTIMONY ON HB 995
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 309
2:00 PM

Aloha Chair Takumi, Vice Chair LoPresti, 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

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 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

HB995

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
Gabriel Kalima	Individual	Support	No

Comments: My Name is Gabriel Naneaikapono Okeole Ho'onu'u Blevins Kalima I support this bill because some of our young farmers do have the lack of skills,expressions, and ambition to farm or ranch. This bill is a good bill but may I propose stretching the classes to fourth grade to any College of Hawaii and America.

HB995

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