

# SB1303

**Measure Title:** RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS.

**Report Title:** Department of Education; Agribusiness Development Corporation; College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources; Appropriation (\$)

**Description:** Appropriates funds for new positions within the department of education, agribusiness development corporation, and college of tropical agriculture and human resources at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

**Companion:**

**Package:** None

**Current Referral:** EDU/AGL, WAM

**Introducer(s):** DELA CRUZ, KIDANI, Inouye, Nishihara, Wakai

<u>Sort by Date</u>		<b>Status Text</b>
1/29/2015	S	Introduced.
2/2/2015	S	Passed First Reading.
2/2/2015	S	Referred to HEA/EDU/AGL, WAM.
2/6/2015	S	Re-Referred to EDU/AGL, WAM.
2/13/2015	S	The committee(s) on EDU/AGL has scheduled a public hearing on 02-18-15 1:17PM in conference room 229.

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
Governor

**SHAN S. TSUTSUI**  
Lt. Governor



**JAMES J. NAKATANI**  
Executive Director

STATE OF HAWAII  
**AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**  
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**TESTIMONY OF JAMES J. NAKATANI  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION  
AND AGRICULTURE**

Wednesday, February 18, 2015  
1:17 p.m.

**SENATE BILL NO. 1303  
RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS**

Chairpersons Kidani and Ruderman and Members of the joint Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 1303 which appropriates funds for new positions within the Department of Education (“DOE”), Agribusiness Development Corporation (“ADC”), and the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (“CTAHR”) at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

ADC is administratively attached to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (“HDOA”) and currently has a staff of five employees. This bill would create two additional positions within ADC which may provide critical support and expertise to expedite projects and assist in land management.

With over 18,000 acres of land on the Island of Kauai and Oahu and pending land acquisitions, a property manager with expertise in land

management may help ADC develop and execute policies and procedures to issue land leases/licenses and other land management agreements in a timely manner.

With respect to its operating budget, pursuant to Act 122 SLH 2014, ADC has a budget ceiling of just over \$3.817 million. If ADC were to fund these two additional positions, its budget ceiling would need to be increased by at least \$500,000, which includes the two positions plus 52% fringe of the new employees and anticipated project.

In regard to the additional positions in DOE and CTAHR, ADC will defer to the respective Departments for their comments. However, it should be noted that a long-range plan that promotes agriculture called the Whitmore Project seeks to coordinate different branches of government, which includes DOE, ADC, and CTAHR.

For these reasons, ADC supports this measure.



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Written Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Education  
And  
Senate Committee on Agriculture  
February 18, 2015 at 1:17 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

### SB 1303 – RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS

Chairs Kidani and Ruderman, Vice Chairs Harimoto and Riviere, and members of the committees, thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 1303, which appropriates funds for new positions within the department of education, agribusiness development corporation, and college of tropical agriculture and human resources at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

We greatly appreciate the intent of SB 1303 to increase staffing within all three state agencies. With amendment to clarify the position classifications identified in SB 1303, we believe that the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, can address the areas of need identified here. We support the 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.

The four positions identified in SB 1303 for the University of Hawai'i are (1) one external crop advisor, (2) one field advisor, (3) one extension agent, and (4) one workforce development agent. Given University of Hawai'i position classifications, we interpret this as meaning four extension agents, three with particular areas of emphasis, and one with more general agricultural expertise.

For clarification, we suggest amendment to re-state the above-named four positions as follows:

- (1) Extension agent with expertise in field crops
- (2) Extension agent with expertise in soils
- (3) Extension agent with horticultural and pest management expertise
- (4) Extension agent to develop and implement agricultural workforce training workshops and programs

The Cooperative Extension Service is the means by which the Land Grant university system extends the results of research to directly assist agriculture and the public in each state. Among the 50 states, Hawai'i is virtually unique in supporting agricultural research and extension, along with all other university functions, solely through the single budget line of the University of Hawai'i. In recognition of the unique nature of agricultural extension, other states choose to provide a budget line specifically for this core Land Grant activity. In the absence of such a

funding mechanism, extension service functions potentially suffer to a greater extent than other university functions during periods of fiscal austerity.

The extension faculty workforce in the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources has decreased 28% over the past six years, and 43% over the past 20 years. Retirements and resignations are a normal occurrence, but the present budget situation prevents replacement of many vacant positions. University budget reductions and the need to increase tuition revenue does not support extension staffing at optimal levels.

At the same time, the legislature and the people of Hawai'i have an increasing sense of urgency with respect to food security. This includes a need for accelerated training to assist new farmers, with an emphasis on farming practices that will decrease Hawai'i's need for imported and expensive farming inputs.

There is a need for additional extension expertise in the areas defined in SB 1303, and we support the intent of SB 1303 to add extension faculty with that expertise.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB1303 on Feb 18, 2015 13:17PM\*  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 17, 2015 4:55:20 PM

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**SB1303**

Submitted on: 2/17/2015

Testimony for EDU/AGL on Feb 18, 2015 13:17PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Chris Manfredi	Hawaii Farm Bureau	Support	Yes

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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**Written Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Education  
And  
Senate Committee on Agriculture  
Wednesday, February 18, 2015; 1:17 pm  
By  
J. Kenneth Grace, Associate Dean**

**SB 1303      RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS**

Chairs Kidani and Ruderman, Vice Chairs Harimoto and Riviere, and members of the Senate Committee on Education and Senate Committee on Agriculture, thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 1303, which appropriates funds for new positions within the Department of Education, Agribusiness Development Corporation, and College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

My name is J. Kenneth Grace. I am a resident of Kaneohe, and employed as Associate Dean for Research in the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR), University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I am providing personal testimony on SB 1303.

I greatly appreciate the intent of SB 1303 to increase staffing within all three state agencies. With amendment to clarify the position classifications identified in SB 1303, I believe that CTAHR can address the areas of need identified here. I support the 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.

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