

SB2141

Testimony

Measure Title: RELATING TO THE SUSTAINABLE AND ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PROGRAM.

Report Title: CTAHR Sustainable and Organic Agriculture Program; Position Funding; Appropriation (\$)

Description: Appropriates funds for three positions in the sustainable and organic agriculture program administered by the UH college of tropical agriculture and human resources and statewide expansion of the program.

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: HEA/WLA, WAM

Introducer(s): GABBARD, DELA CRUZ, NISHIHARA, RUDERMAN, SHIMABUKURO, Galuteria, Kidani, Riviere, L. Thielen, Wakai



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts
and
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture
Tuesday, February 16, 2016 at 1:15 p.m.

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 2141 – RELATING TO THE SUSTAINABLE AND ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

Chairs Taniguchi and Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and members of the committees, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2141, which appropriates funds for three positions in the sustainable and organic agriculture program administered by the UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) and statewide expansion of the program.

We support this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the University's Board of Regents Approved Executive Budget.

The Sustainable and Organic Agriculture Program (SOAP) at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) is committed to increasing awareness and adoption of sustainable and organic agriculture practices across the State of Hawai'i. Two CTAHR faculty members serve as statewide co-coordinators, and 18 faculty serve as topic leaders in the program. The advisory board of SOAP includes eight members from Hawai'i's diversified agriculture industry representing five different islands and different agricultural commodity groups. The program conducts research in organic agriculture, produces informational materials and websites, makes organic seeds available through the CTAHR Agricultural Diagnostic Service Center, and conducts year-round training, workshops, field days and farm tours. SOAP educational programs have reached over 25,000 agricultural professionals and members of the public.

Through statewide collaborations, SOAP has worked to increase adoption and acreage of Hawaii's organic fruit and vegetable operations. These industries are now valued over \$12.1 million, compared to \$7.6 million in 2008 (a 59% increase).

As with other faculty-led programs at the University of Hawai'i, support staff and operations are funded through extramural grants and contracts. Grant cycles, and the ability to obtain sufficient extramural funding at a given time threatens program continuity, and imposes restrictions on program growth, despite steadily increasing demand for SOAP services from local stakeholders. Recent changes in agricultural production on Maui are expected to greatly increase such demand in the FY 2017 fiscal year. SB 2141 would provide the amount of \$250,000 to fund three assistants for the SOAP program and provide modest support for operations, in order to insure program continuity and ability to serve an increasing clientele base at this critical time.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2141.

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 COMMITTEES ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE ARTS
AND WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE**

February 16, 2016
1:15 P.M.
Room 224

**SENATE BILL NO. 2141
RELATING TO THE SUSTAINABLE AND ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PROGRAM**

Chairpersons Taniguchi and Gabbard and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2141 that appropriates \$250,000 to the Sustainable and Organic Agriculture Program of the University of Hawaii's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources for three full-time positions, an educational assistant for the State, and two research and extension assistants to serve the four counties. The Department of Agriculture supports the intent of the measure as it promotes agricultural research and technologies pertinent to organic growers and the practice of sustainable agriculture in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit 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 16, 2016

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE ARTS
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON SB 2141
RELATING TO THE SUSTAINABLE AND ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

Room 224
1:15 PM

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Committees:

I am Randy Cabral, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFBF is comprised of 1,900 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 SB 2141, which appropriates funds for three positions in the Sustainable and Organic Agriculture Program administered by the UH college of tropical agriculture and human resources and statewide expansion of the program.

HFB believes that Hawaii's organic sector of our agricultural industry has great potential and opportunity to expand in Hawaii. Having a stronger organic industry will not only help the overall agricultural industry, but it will also lead to reducing imported organic products and invasive species that are commonly found on the importation of organic fruits and produce.

For nearly a century, CTAHR has helped develop and improve agricultural technologies pertinent to organic growers. This includes intensive cover crop research, promoting the importance of locally grown produce, developing biological and cultural methods for controlling pests without chemicals, and the use of biological nitrogen fixation to significantly increase production of high protein foods while at the same time reducing the need for commercially produced fertilizers.

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



P.O. Box 99, Wailuku, HI 96793-0099

February 15, 2016

Support for SB 2141

HFUU Board of Directors

Vincent Mina
President
HFUU

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and Honorable Committee Members,

Hawaii Farmers Union United is in strong support of SB 2141.

Simon Russell
Vice-President
HFUU

Sustainable and organic practices are essential to the health and wellbeing of our agricultural economy.

Anny Bruch
Secretary
HFUU

Please support the appropriation to support more staff to support sustainable and organic production at UH CTAHR Agricultural Extensions and within the SOAP program itself.

Ray Maki
Treasurer
HFUU

Mahalo for serving, and taking the time to promote good legislation like this measure.

Kyle Studer
East Hawai'i

Mahalo,
HAWAII FARMERS UNION UNITED
Simon Russell

HFUU Legislative Committee Chairman

Nate Hayward
Kohala

Steve Sakala
Kona

Greg Smith
Ka'u

Phyllis Robinson
Haleakala

Alika Atay
Mauna Kahalawai

Mikala Minn
Hana

Pamela Boyer
Oahu

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Cc: rkailianu57@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2141 on Feb 16, 2016 13:15PM
Date: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 10:50:10 AM

SB2141

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for HEA/WLA on Feb 16, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachel L. Kailianu	Ho`omana Pono, LLC	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Strongly against this bill.

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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Cc: nredfeather@kohalacenter.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2141 on Feb 16, 2016 13:15PM
Date: Saturday, February 06, 2016 9:12:44 PM

SB2141

Submitted on: 2/6/2016

Testimony for HEA/WLA on Feb 16, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Redfeather	Hawaii Island School Garden Network	Support	No

Comments: Land Grant Universities across the country are investing in an organic agriculture future, including Cornell and UC Davis. We should be moving in this direction also, as organic agriculture is the fastest growing sector of agriculture at 20% per year. Our Tourists, our communities want to buy local organic and now that is quite impossible. We could improve our agricultural economy and our community health by investing in an organic ag future.

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Aloha Esteemed Members of HEA & WLA:

With great enthusiasm, this message is to provide full support to SB2141, regarding the sustainable and organic agriculture program (SOAP). Apologies that as a farmer on Hawaii island and without an easy way to testify in person on your schedule that it is not an option to be in person during your review.

For the past five (5) years a full 20 hours/week of my time has been dedicated to my appointment as a member of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) which includes 15 members of a specific range of the organic industry (specifically the Organic Foods Production Act created NOSB to represent the public in rule making in terms of the fact that no rules can be recommended from the oversight National Organic Program [NOP] without said recommendation coming first from the NOSB through its' formal review process with the public and is required to have 4 members that are farmers or farm owners, 3 who represent consumer interest, 3 from the environmental community, 2 who are handlers, 1 who is a scientist, 1 who is a certifier, and 1 who is a food processor). Note that within USDA, the NOP reports to Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), which is focused on emphasizing marketing of agricultural products and therefore decisions are seen through that lense.

One of the things that was clear through my term was that it is such a growing opportunity for people like myself, a certified organic producer, in Hawaii where nearly all of the organic production is being imported, to both keep more money at home, so to speak, but more-so to have a system less reliant on the shipping industry and more self-sufficient! This opportunity is that organics keeps growing at rates of more than 10% per year and Hawaii can and should strive to keep up!

With a Masters' degree in Adult Agricultural Education (from UC Davis, CA), one of the things that has been notable since our family moved to Hawaii 15 years ago is that the outreach and education both within established programs (such as CTAHR), and externally (to the public and to consumers), regarding organic foods is minimal or non-existent in Hawaii. There is some effort within the University of Hawaii (UH) and CTAHR to engage in research and some energy towards support to farmers who are interested in more information to bring their farms toward organic production and reduction of uses of environmentally damaging chemicals. However there has been minimal or no outreach in place regarding promotion or facilitation of said information to the broader community in terms of linking production with demand and again facilitating the already existing demand among the significant amount of tourists who come to Hawaii from states and countries who have followed the growth of organics by ensuring that consumers and public know what the choices mean and how to interpret systems in place and promotions that they encounter in stores and marketplaces.

Finally, it is with some hesitancy that the fact that this piece of legislation holds an undue emphasis at UH Manoa since the majority of farms in the state are located on

Hawaii island. However given total populations, as long as emphasis of job descriptions for designated sought funds is on the broader population and attempts to provide education in areas where it has been lacking thus far, then the areas of emphasis for the designated positions could make sense.

Thank you again for your serious consideration and support for this relatively minor allocation of support for an area of Hawaii's potential which has not kept up with what the market already carries and which could be much better for both producers and consumers as well as the broader environment with this type of important step along the path already defined by actions of others (at national and international levels) which can and should be seen as opportunities for Hawaii to help ourselves by said allocation of a small amount of funds which will yield a much larger economic benefit over time.

Please do not hesitate to contact me (below) if there are questions or further observation that might be of some use. Note that having worked with SOAP (and CTAHR more broadly) and Ted Radovich with organics in the past as well as many of the other people with the Hawaii organic industry as well as the general agricultural component of Hawaii (with whom there has been extensive time working on a variety of subjects including organics in more recent years with the present Hawaii Department of Agriculture [HDOA] Chairperson Scott Enright including on projects where farmer outreach is supported through HDOA grants which were written and managed by self as a non-profit Board of Directors member), that while not a native, my experience in Hawaii has been broad and thorough in terms of how organics can be nurtured and best supported.

Again, please support SB2141 and provide these needed funds to help organics and Hawaii grow!

Sincerely,

Colehour Bondera
Former member National Organic Standards Board
Owner/operation of Kanalani Ohana Farm
Honaunau, HI
808/640-1643 cell/text

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Cc: Alana.Ross@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2141 on Feb 16, 2016 13:15PM*
Date: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 4:31:11 PM

SB2141

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for HEA/WLA on Feb 16, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
AlanaRoss	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Cc: bcole47@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2141 on Feb 16, 2016 13:15PM*
Date: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 5:15:27 AM

SB2141

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for HEA/WLA on Feb 16, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Betsy Cole	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Cc: evans@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2141 on Feb 16, 2016 13:15PM
Date: Monday, February 15, 2016 12:25:50 PM

SB2141

Submitted on: 2/15/2016

Testimony for HEA/WLA on Feb 16, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dale Evans	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support the appropriation of additional funds for the UH-CTAHR Sustainable and Organic Agriculture Program. CTAHR's core mission for over a century has been to support "alternative" agriculture and Hawaii's small-scale farming enterprises (i.e., other than plantation agriculture). The state has a huge deficit in local food production vs. food imports. Economic conditions make farming here difficult, and farmers need all the help they can get. If the electorate succeeds in reducing the footprint of the transgenic crop production operations in the state, additional opportunities for agricultural employment will be needed to replace jobs lost. Therefore, strengthening the CTAHR SOAP program is a wise investment in Hawaii's agricultural sector.

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To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Cc: joannaction@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2141 on Feb 16, 2016 13:15PM
Date: Monday, February 15, 2016 12:57:20 PM

SB2141

Submitted on: 2/15/2016

Testimony for HEA/WLA on Feb 16, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joanna Wheelers	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha. Please support organic agriculture as it is the true future of our children. The current poison based industrial ag model is literally killing us, polluting our water, our air, the Aina and causing super weeds and super bugs which in turn makes the industry launch even more toxic poisons to combat them in a toxic circle that needs to end. It is raining cancer causing glyphosate because of its extensive use. I am attaching information on this as well as how organic agriculture is yielding more and in a poison free, healthy way. Thank you so much.

<http://naturalsociety.com/sustainability-on-steroids-organic-farmer-grosses-100k-an-acre/> <http://naturalsociety.com/75-air-rain-samples-contain-monsantos-round/>
http://www.centerforfoodsafety.org/files/glyphosate-faq_64013.pdf

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Cc: kadc31999@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2141 on Feb 16, 2016 13:15PM*
Date: Monday, February 15, 2016 11:46:20 AM

SB2141

Submitted on: 2/15/2016

Testimony for HEA/WLA on Feb 16, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katarina Culina	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Feb 15, 2016

From: Koon-Hui Wang, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor

University of Hawaii at Manoa

Department of PEPS



To: Hawaii State Legislators

Re: Support for Bill SB 2141 on SOAP

I am writing a personal testimony to support SB 2141 put forward by Senator Gabbard regarding the need to Expand our statewide research and educational reach in meeting the growing needs of farmers (and recently displaced farm workers) across the state to advance food sustainability in Hawaii. I am a researcher at the University of Hawaii working on Sustainable Agriculture in Hawaii. My specialty is in sustainable pest management and is working with many local farmers to resolve problem of pest management as well as nutrient management for local farmers for the last 8 years. **There is no doubt that there is increasing needs from local farmers requiring more expertise's help and education programs** over the last 8 years. I am fascinated by how much **new local farmers are interested in producing food through sustainable approaches** in the last few years. A lots of it is attributed to the significant efforts put forward by Sustainable and Organic Agriculture Program (SOAP) in the College of Tropical Agriculture (CTAHR). While SOAP have been recruiting CTAHR specialists or researchers to voluntarily join the team leaders' task on various topics in SOAP, most faculty have too much duties to carry out and too little time to commit to education for local farmers. **This is especially challenging for sustainable agriculture training to be carried out in outer islands like Big Island and Kauai** where there are growing numbers of small local farmers but not enough extension personnel in these islands.

I have 90% appointment in teaching or doing research at the University. Yet, in average, I presented or hosted 9 field days or workshop per year for the last 5 years. **Farmers' appreciation on field days or workshop is always remarkably positive and always ask for more.** I rely on soft money hired personnel to assist in carrying out this activity. When soft money run out, this effort will have to be cut back. Travel cost to outer islands is especially expensive. Having additional help on outer islands will reduce some of this challenges. So that researcher at the University can spend more time to obtain funding to support local agriculture research, and let extension educator to attend the service needs of farmers.

Local organic food crop production is too expensive. Consumers have no choice but to buy imported food. Local small farmers are suffering from barely make it even from their farming income. If we want more farmers to succeed or expanding their farmlands that are made available through the close down on plantations, **farmers need to get more assistant on how to make use of local resources or recycle farm waste.**

Please consider to support Bill SB2141 for greater future of sustainability of Hawaii.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Cc: Kiloanui@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2141 on Feb 16, 2016 13:15PM
Date: Thursday, February 11, 2016 7:59:09 AM

SB2141

Submitted on: 2/11/2016

Testimony for HEA/WLA on Feb 16, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leonard Hall	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I'm a Native Hawaiian and support my Hawaiian culture, and education. UH needs these funds because of the awesome research they do in sustainable agriculture and more organic farming. Which in turn will make a healthier, and more sustainable farming community. I'm a farmer and participant in the GoFarm program founded by UH and understand how important these researches are for myself and to all. Mahalo.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Cc: kauaihole@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2141 on Feb 16, 2016 13:15PM
Date: Monday, February 15, 2016 8:23:03 AM

SB2141

Submitted on: 2/15/2016

Testimony for HEA/WLA on Feb 16, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Louisa Wooton	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please vote in support of this very valuable funding package for the Sustainable and Organic Ag Program. The fastest growing sector of American Agriculture continues to be ORGANIC. Hawai'i farming enterprises need resources to promote this type of agriculture. This is money well spent for future food production in our State.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Cc: maria.makaleha@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2141 on Feb 16, 2016 13:15PM
Date: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 11:12:08 AM

SB2141

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for HEA/WLA on Feb 16, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maria Walker	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, my family and I, residents of Kaua'i, are strongly in support of this bill. We are an agricultural family and have seen the many benefits of the great work the SOAP program has accomplished. More funding will help all the islands in producing more of our own food and supporting our smaller farmers to meet the needs of our residents and visitors. Mahalo

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Cc: mauimarta@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2141 on Feb 16, 2016 13:15PM
Date: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 5:33:07 PM

SB2141

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for HEA/WLA on Feb 16, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Martha E. Martin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support SB2141. Hawaii needs more young farmers, and education increases good farming practices. Especially needed is more support to organic farmers. They don't use poisonous chemicals that pollute. Instead organic farming methods improve soil fertility and grow food that is free of adulterants. Hawaii needs to grow more healthy foods, to be more self-sufficient.

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Cc: megan.pittsley@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2141 on Feb 16, 2016 13:15PM*
Date: Monday, February 15, 2016 9:47:48 AM

SB2141

Submitted on: 2/15/2016

Testimony for HEA/WLA on Feb 16, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Megan Fox	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Cc: pamelaboyar@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2141 on Feb 16, 2016 13:15PM*
Date: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 12:36:58 AM

SB2141

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for HEA/WLA on Feb 16, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pamela Boyar	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

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2016 February 09

Dear Members of the House Higher Education Committee

I wish to strongly support SB2141 relating to the Sustainable and Organic Agriculture Program (SOAP) of the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. I am a Professor at UHM speaking as a private citizen.

This hand-on program has made remarkable progress since its inception and is already having a significant impact on the instructional program at the undergraduate level. The research findings are readily applicable and are of direct benefit to Hawaii's farmers.

This Bill will stabilize this program's funding and allow it to greatly increase its ability to continue to serve Hawaii undergraduate teaching programs in organic and sustainable agriculture.

Yours Sincerely

Robert E. Paull

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Cc: rsamis@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2141 on Feb 16, 2016 13:15PM
Date: Saturday, February 13, 2016 11:59:55 AM

SB2141

Submitted on: 2/13/2016

Testimony for HEA/WLA on Feb 16, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Samis	Individual	Support	No

Comments: SB 2141 will pay huge dividends to the farmers, health oriented visitors, and residents of Hawaii. Sustainable organic agriculture preserve and enrich the soils, provide healthy and more flavorful food opportunities. Hawaii's culinary chef's reputations will be enhanced and reinforce the healthy idyllic image of Hawaii as a place to live and visit.

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**Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture
Thursday, February 4, 2016; 8:30 am**

**By
Steven Chiang**

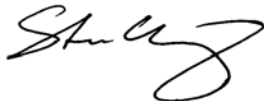
**In Support Of
SB2141 Relating to the Sustainable and Organic Agriculture Program**

As the Director of the Agribusiness Incubator Program, which provides business consulting to new and existing agribusinesses, and as the co-founder of the GoFarm Hawaii beginning farmer training program, I am well aware of the agricultural landscape and the challenges Hawaii's farmers face.

CTAHR's Sustainable and Organic Agriculture Program (SOAP) has proven to be an innovative and effective means of bringing together UH and community resources to serve the growing demand for science-based sustainable agricultural information and research, and is a credit to the University. My staff, our students, and I have relied on this program for many years.

This program has, however, become a victim of its own success and cannot respond to the demand for its services. I strongly support appropriations to fund the additional positions so that they may continue and expand their services and research for the benefit of Hawaii's agriculture industry.

Thank you,



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Cc: tampaltin@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2141 on Feb 16, 2016 13:15PM
Date: Sunday, February 07, 2016 11:55:57 AM

SB2141

Submitted on: 2/7/2016

Testimony for HEA/WLA on Feb 16, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tamara Paltin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: With the bills passed against GMO in all neighbor island counties, it is obvious what type of agriculture the people want to see so this bill is good in supporting the wishes of the people Mahalo Tamara

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My name is Ted Radovich. I am a life-long resident of Waimanalo, O'ahu, and employed as Associate Specialist in sustainable and organic farming systems in the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am providing personal testimony on SB 2141. I support the passing of SB2141 provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the University's Board of Regents Approved Executive Budget.

Funding SB2141 will allow the Sustainable and Organic Agriculture Program (SOAP) to expand its certified organic average statewide and allow it to update and maintain its website, which is a primary venue of information dissemination.

Since 2009 SOAP has served as a major vehicle for promoting sustainable and organic agriculture in Hawaii. Eighteen faculty members at UH CTAHR serve as topic leaders for SOAP and myself and Jari Sugano serve as statewide co-coordinators. The advisory board of SOAP includes 8 members from Hawaii's diversified agriculture industry representing different islands and agricultural commodity groups.

To maximize the impact of limited resources and address the breadth of training needs across the state, SOAP collaborates with other programs within UHM & CTAHR to finance and provide relevant training programs for CES agents and specialists, USDA NRCS staff, and other agricultural professionals such as USDA, Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, Hawaii Organic Farmers Association, University of Hawaii at Hilo, Hawaii State Department of Agriculture/Health, county agencies, industry collaborators, Hawaii State Department of Education K-12 programs, policy makers and other essential public and private organizations.

SOAP outputs include:

- Year-round Extension education workshops, field days, legislative open houses and farm tours
- Organic research and educational field plots
 - 4 acres of certified organic croplands at the Waimanalo Research Station since 2009
 - 1 acre of organic crop land at the Poamoho Research Station since 2015
- Development and sales of organic seeds offered through CTAHR's Agricultural Diagnostic Service Center (ADSC)
- Assist growers in understanding the USDA National Organic Program (NOP) and preparing for organic certification
- Annual agricultural professional educational training in partnership with the WSARE Professional Development Program
 - Intensive 2 day educational event targeted for CES and USDA NRCS field agents
 - Travel scholarships for agricultural professionals
- Social and mass media:
 - SOAP Website, Hānai'Ai: SOAP Statewide Newsletter,
 - Twitter @SOAPHawaii:
 - Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/SustainAgCTAHR>

Twitter and Facebook, YouTube,

SOAP impacts include:

- Leveraged partnerships with internal and external agricultural agencies has boosted sustainable and organic agriculture awareness and adoption across the state
- Educational programs conducted by SOAP has reached over 25,000 agricultural professionals

- and the general public via face to face as well as mass media educational technologies in 2015.
- Agricultural professionals, as well as graduate students are pursuing applied research grant funding to promote the adoption of sustainable and organic practices statewide, through agencies such as WSARE, USDA NIFA, etc.
- Evidence of increased awareness and promotion of sustainable agricultural and organic practices include: recognition of conservation work conducted by SOAP members by the USDA NRCS, increased *popularity* and increased interest in SOAP Learning Centers (> 3,000 participants), positive feedback from our advisory board, and online recognition of our efforts by the college's Office of Communication Services.
- Through statewide collaborations, we have worked to increase adoption and acreage of Hawaii's organic fruit and vegetable operations. These industries are valued over \$12.1 million dollars compared to \$7.6 million in 2008 (Honolulu Star Advertiser, October 26, 2015).
- Hawaii's organic crop values are now higher than 14 other states in the continental USA (Honolulu Star Advertiser, October 26, 2015).

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Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Cc: tulsi@mauiishome.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2141 on Feb 16, 2016 13:15PM*
Date: Monday, February 15, 2016 11:32:56 AM

SB2141

Submitted on: 2/15/2016

Testimony for HEA/WLA on Feb 16, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tulsi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2141 on Feb 16, 2016 13:15PM
Date: Sunday, February 14, 2016 9:26:38 AM

SB2141

Submitted on: 2/14/2016

Testimony for HEA/WLA on Feb 16, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
vi leong	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I whole heartedly support this measure to ensure the local growing, agriculture community be provided with support and technical knowledge and assistance to produce and supply the citizens of Hawaii with sustainable and safe food products.

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