

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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

February 25, 2015
9:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211

SENATE BILL NO. 314
RELATING TO THE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

Chairperson Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 314. This bill appropriates moneys for critical positions in the UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources Cooperative Extension Service. The Department is in support of this bill provided it does not adversely affect priorities in the Administration's budget.

Extension agents play a critical role in providing education and on-the-ground outreach to our farmers and ranchers. In the past, they have served as key resources helping farmers to deal with pest issues and to provide practical applications for research being conducted at the university. Extension agents also serve as a conduit through which greater ties between the community and the agricultural industry can be formed.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.





UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, February 25, 2015 at 9:00 am

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 314 – RELATING TO THE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 314, which provides funding for critical positions in the Cooperative Extension Service under the direction of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

We strongly 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.

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, and to a lesser extent agricultural research, other states choose to provide a budget line specifically for these core Land Grant activities. 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. Tuition-driven university budget models may also have the unforeseen effect of disincentivizing extension functions.

Hawai'i is also unique among all the states in that the four county governments make no set contribution to the costs of the extension service. The program funding that several are willing to provide is greatly appreciated, but core infrastructure support is absent.

As a result of the above-described factors, the extension faculty workforce in the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources has decreased 43% over the past 20 years, and 27% over the past six years alone. Retirements and resignations are a normal occurrence, but the present budget situation prevents replacement of many vacant positions. Again, a focus on university budget reductions and increasing 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; and a concomitant need to ensure that appropriate good agriculture practices are followed and safe food reaches our plates. In order to reduce our reliance on imported food, and also ensure that farming in Hawai'i remains a viable occupation, our farmers need to be well-trained in both farm/ranch production methods and in practices that will ensure the safety of the food they produce without increasing production costs unreasonably.

Each of the positions identified in the bill represents a state need, and will serve as a resource across the state, as well as filling manpower gaps within their home county and freeing time on the part of current agents to provide better service to their agricultural clientele. In addition to filling immediate needs, SB 314 provides the time needed to work on inclusion of extension functions in the budget models currently being developed within the university.

SB 314 will strengthen the eroding agricultural extension infrastructure in Hawai'i by appropriating \$700,000 per year for eight temporary extension agent positions, two in each county, for a two year period. We recognize that there are many demands on the legislature, and even one position in each county (four positions total), at half of this amount, would help to alleviate current shortages.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of SB 314.

SB314

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

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 SUPPORTS SB 314 Relating to Agricultural Extension Service, which appropriates moneys for critical positions in UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources Cooperative Extension Service.

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February 25, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 314
RELATING TO THE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

Room 211
9:00 AM

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, and Members of the Committee:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB 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 interest of our diverse agricultural community.

HFB strongly supports SB 314, which appropriates moneys for critical positions in the University of Hawaii, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) Cooperative Extension Service.

The excellent work performed by UH CTAHR's cooperative extension service cannot be overstated. The ongoing outreach and education is unparalleled in the State. Farmers and ranchers rely on this program for their very success. Identifying education regarding agricultural sciences and food safety as priorities is important; particularly the latter which will presumably help producers navigate the myriad regulations reflected in the USFDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). Please allocate all necessary resources toward this critically important program. Agriculture in Hawaii depends upon it.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support on this measure of vital importance.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

P O Box 437199 Kamuela HI 96743
Phone (808) 885-5599 • Fax (808) 887-1607
e-mail: HCattlemens@hawaii.rr.com

SENATE COMMITTEE WAYS & MEANS

FEBRUARY 25, 2015 9:00 a.m. Room 211

SB 314 RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

Appropriates moneys for critical positions in UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources Cooperative Extension Service.

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi and Members of the Committee:

My name is Alan Gottlieb, and I am a rancher and the Government Affairs Chair for 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 **strongly supports SB 314.**

The extension service has lost a number of extension agents over the past 20 years. The lack of a livestock extension agent on Maui for the past several years, since a retirement, has left a huge void for the Maui Cattle Industry. Other commodities also need extension agents as requested in this bill. Please support this bill.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify in favor of this very important issue.

SB314

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Warren Watanabe	Maui County Farm Bureau	Support	No

Comments: These positions are important for our farmers and ranchers for technology transfer and to experience in the field data. Extension agents are critical to the viability of farmers and ranchers.

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Council Services Division
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209
Lihu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766

February 23, 2015

TESTIMONY OF KIPUKAI KUALII
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL
ON

SB 314, Relating to the Agricultural Extension
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, February 25, 2015
9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 211

Dear Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of SB 314, Relating to the Agricultural Extension. My testimony is submitted in my capacity as the Economic Development & Intergovernmental Relations Committee Chair and as an individual Councilmember on the Kaua'i County Council.

The University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources Cooperative Extension Service works very closely with the Kaua'i County Farm Bureau, and are partners in various agricultural events for Kaua'i's community. Many events not only provide educational opportunities for farmers and ranchers, but invite the *keiki* to experience various environmental and agricultural fields of work. Appropriating funds to support critical unfunded positions in the program will continue the one-on-one experience between farmers/ranchers and representatives from the program, and will continue providing valuable tools for the public to strengthen the agricultural community and the agricultural economy.

For the reasons stated above, I strongly encourage the Senate Committee on Ways and Means to support this measure. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188.

Sincerely,

KIPUKAI KUALII
Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

SB314

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carl Evensen	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I urge you to pass this important bill supporting agricultural extension in Hawaii!

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Personal Testimony Presented before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
February 25, 2015 at 9:00 am
by
Douglas L. Vincent, Ph.D., P.A.S.

SB 314 – RELATING TO THE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

Personal Testimony in Favor of SB 314

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi and members of the committees

My name is Douglas L. Vincent and I am a Professor and Animal Scientist in the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources in the Department of Human Nutrition, Food and Animal Sciences. I am also a former Department Chair. I have been on the faculty of UHM for nearly 30 years and have witnessed the great work of our extension faculty. I am pleased to provide personal testimony on SB 314. This testimony does not represent the position of the University of Hawaii nor the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources.

In 2014, the Cooperative Extension Service (CES) celebrated 100 years in existence providing help and education to farmers, ranchers, homemakers and other residents in rural communities. CES prides itself in providing up-to-date, science-based information to help farmers, ranchers, homemakers and others to make decisions that help them improve their economic status. This is done largely through the work of extension agents, which are faculty positions at UH-Manoa, but are located in the communities they serve. Hawaii CES has been providing this to Hawaii citizens through the UH-Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) for nearly 100 years. CES is just as relevant today and is needed just as much, as it was when it was established just over 100 years ago.

In Hawaii, the impact of Cooperative Extension Agents is enormous. Our farms are small farms, less than 50 acres, yet we are one of the few states where the number of farms is INCREASING. CES provides access to cost-saving, yield increasing and environmentally sound crops and agricultural practices, especially to new farmers. Hawaii CES is involved in the preservation and propagation of native Hawaiian plants such as taro and sweet potato. CES brings CTAHR's expertise to over 100,000 people a year outside of the academic classroom. CES remains one of the most effective means for turning new knowledge generated by the University of Hawaii at Manoa into useful practices for both farms and families.

Unfortunately due to budget cuts to CTAHR, and retirements of key personnel, CTAHR has not been able to fund replacement extension agent positions. As a result, there is loss of particular expertise in areas such as livestock production, organic agriculture, irrigation and water resources, food safety, disease and insect management. The provision of this important information is lost to the community or the communities have to rely upon overworked extension agents from other islands to provide very limited service to these stakeholders. SB 314 provides funding to replace many of these lost faculty members and will restore expertise to communities desperate for this support. I strongly urge support of SB 314.

SB314

Submitted on: 2/23/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Iris Iwami	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SB314

Submitted on: 2/23/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jari S.K. Sugano	Individual	Support	No

Comments: SB314/ HB 850 FUNDING OF THE UH CTAHR COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi and members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of SB314 relating to the Cooperative Extension Service of the University of Hawaii, at Manoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. I strongly 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. Let me state from the onset of this testimony that, as a member of the faculty at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, it is important to note that I support the prioritization process that the administration utilizes to establish their annual budgetary request to the legislature and can only advocate for additional funding of university programs if it does not negatively impact existing requests that are included in the executive budget. My name is Jari Sugano and I am a County Extension Agent at UH Manoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. Today, I am providing personal testimony. Each land grant university has a federally mandated Cooperative Extension Service (CES) associated with its institution to disseminate research-based information to the public at large. The College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) serves as the land grant college of the University of Hawai'i (UH). Historically, individuals, organizations, and communities have turned to the CTAHR for assistance in developing solutions to their critical and emerging problems. Agriculture in Hawaii that was once dominated by the sugar and pineapple industry has shifted towards a diversified agricultural system. Small acreage and family owned farms now account for majority of Hawaii's agriculture industry. Based on the 2007 USDA Census of Hawaii Agriculture, sixty-four percent of farms in Hawaii are less than 10 acres in size. Eighty-five percent of farms are individually or family operated. New pests and diseases continue to invade Hawaii's borders, regulations intensify, marketing issues become more complex, and growers are faced with new challenges that threaten the expansion and advancement of Hawaii's diversified agriculture sector. A change in Hawaii's agriculture industry has prompted a need for responsive, cooperative educational programs in responsible farming, marketing, pest management, risk management and environmental stewardship. The economic success of producers relies on their ability to adapt farming principles and practices to integrate latest and relevant technology and research developments. UH CTAHR Cooperative Extension Service utilizes a variety of delivery methods or channels to bring the latest research based information to the attention of clients. This includes the utilization of extension agents. Extension agents transfer research based information, knowledge, and skills that help agricultural producers correctly choose and utilize specific technology and

practices best suited to meet their diverse educational needs (Bennett, 1990). This information enables agricultural producers to make informed decisions. The UH CTAHR Cooperative Extension Service serves four counties in Hawaii, which are located on 5 islands within the Hawaiian island chain. Agents are limited in numbers, geographically separated and must deal with diverse conditions unique to each location. Further, agricultural research that applies to the continental United States is not always applicable to Hawaii's conditions. Continued applied research, on farm field trials, and retention of Extension agent positions are needed to fill vacancy gaps and retain our ability to answer emerging and re-occurring issues in support of Hawaii agriculture. I believe that bill SB314/HB 850 has much merit. I strongly recommend that it be funded. Ongoing funding to support at CTAHR is crucial to the sustainability of Hawaii's diversified agriculture. Thank you for the opportunity to express our strong support for SB314.

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SB314

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelvin Sewake	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha! My name is Kelvin Sewake and I have been a County Extension Agent with the University of Hawaii at Manoa's CTAHR for almost 30 years now. I am testifying in strong support of funding for CTAHR's Extension Agent positions. I am testifying personally as a private citizen and not representing UH, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the University's Board of Regents Approved Executive Biennium Budget. Extension Agents are the critical link between researchers and farmers providing research-based information through effective educational programs tailored to their specific clientele. Extension agents collaborate with industry organizations and with individual farmers in conducting needs assessments and develop a wide range of educational programs based on the highest priorities of the industry. These needs are communicated to researchers and other government agencies to address those needs and resolve problems. While having specific areas of expertise, Extension Agents are generalists in their duties and assist farmers in all aspects of farming such as breeding, propagation, production practices, pest management and invasive species, pesticide usage and safety, soil fertility, irrigation, greenhouse design, business planning, postharvest handling, food safety, crop insurance, risk management, promotion and marketing, and more. In this way, Extension Agents play a significant and very unique role in helping farmers to obtain and utilize the best information available in order for them to make sound decisions, thereby reducing the many risks and challenges that they face while ensuring steady growth in Hawaii's agricultural industry. Please consider funding for CTAHR's Extension Agent positions as the numbers of agents have declined drastically and because they are essential to the hard-working and dedicated farmers of Hawaii. Mahalo!

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Testimony FOR Bill SB314

Dear Chair Jill Tokuda, Vice-chair Ronald D. Kouchi, and members of the Senate Ways & Means Committee,

I support Bill SB314 which seeks to fund 8 Extension Agent positions across 4 islands for 2 years. As an employee of the College of Tropical Agriculture & Human Resources (CTAHR) for 26 years, I have watched sadly as the number of extension agents has declined in Hawaii County from 12 to 8 (33% decrease), as agents retired or left. Of the current agents, approximately half of them are very close to retirement.

I hope that you agree that sustainability in Hawai`i cannot occur without agriculture that is economically viable and environmentally sound. Please support sustainable agriculture in Hawai`i by voting to approve Bill SB314.

I am writing as a private citizen to support this bill.

Best wishes,

Susan C. Miyasaka