

# SB 314

## Testimony

**Measure Title:** RELATING TO THE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE.

**Report Title:** CTAHR Cooperative Extension Service; Position Funding; Appropriation (\$)

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

**Companion:** [HB850](#)

**Package:** None

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

**Introducer(s):** RUDERMAN, BAKER, HARIMOTO, IHARA, INOUYE, KEITH-AGARAN, RIVIERE, TANIGUCHI, Espero, Galuteria

**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 AGRICULTURE**

February 10, 2015  
1:30 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 224

**SENATE BILL NO. 314  
RELATING TO THE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE**

Chairpersons Taniguchi and Ruderman and Members of the Committees:

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

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Written Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
And  
Senate Committee on Agriculture  
Tuesday, February 10, 2015 at 1:30 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 314 – RELATING TO THE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

Chairs Taniguchi and Ruderman, Vice Chairs Inouye and Riviere, and members of the committees, 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 28% over the past six years. 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.

SB 314 will strengthen the eroding agricultural extension infrastructure in Hawai'i by appropriating funding for eight extension agent positions, two in each county, for a two year period. 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.

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



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759  
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921  
e-mail [info@hfbf.org](mailto:info@hfbf.org); [www.hfbf.org](http://www.hfbf.org)

February 10, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE ARTS  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON SB 314  
RELATING TO THE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

Room 224  
1:30 PM

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Chair Ruderman, Vice Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Riviere and Members of the Committees:

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.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HEA Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [thegreenpreschoolkailua@gmail.com](mailto:thegreenpreschoolkailua@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB314 on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM  
**Date:** Sunday, February 08, 2015 2:31:23 PM

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**SB314**

Submitted on: 2/8/2015

Testimony for HEA/AGL on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Pualani Ramos	Hawaii Farmer's Union	Support	No

Comments: Dear Folks, Please extend the capacities of CTAR by supporting this bill. Mahalo!

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**Cc:** [legechair@gmail.com](mailto:legechair@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB314 on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM\*  
**Date:** Sunday, February 08, 2015 2:01:44 AM

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**SB314**

Submitted on: 2/8/2015

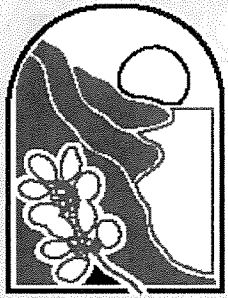
Testimony for HEA/AGL on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Simon Russell	Hawaii Farmers Union United	Support	No

Comments:

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**KAUA'I**

*Chamber  
of  
Commerce*

**TESTIMONY**

**Date:** Tuesday February 10, 2015

**Time:** 1:30. p.m.

**Place:** Conference Room 224, State Capitol

February 9, 2015

**Honorable Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair**  
**Vice Chair Senator Lorraine R. Inouye and Members**  
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
**Honorable Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Chair**  
**Vice Chair Senator Gil Riviere, and Members**  
Committee on Agriculture  
Hawaii State Senate  
Honolulu Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Taniguchi and Ruderman and Vice Chairs Inouye and Riviere, and Members:  
**RE:** SB 314: Relating to the Agricultural Extension Service

**Aloha!** My name is Randy Francisco, President/CEO, Kauai Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber represents 450+ members, 600+ representatives and over 6,000+ employees on Kauai. The Chamber is writing in **Support of SB 314.**


The importance of this legislation is to provide funding in support of critical positions identified by the UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources **Cooperative Extension Service**. The key words here are **Cooperative Extension Service**. C.E.S. mission is to provide extension services in the form of **scientifically-based and research-based knowledge** to farmers, small business owners and others in the food and agriculture sector. Farmers need to have the convenience of accessing academic and research experts at U.H. in order to keep their businesses/sector viable. C.E.S. as history has demonstrated provides professionals, scientists and researchers essential to helping support Kauai farmers' ability to provide healthy, safe and sustainable food and practices that will ultimately benefit the farmer to the consumer ---- farm to table.

Another benefit is in the area of economic and workforce development. C.E.S. will be able to continue to encourage and support present and future farmers, many of whom are small businesses and may not have the capacity and resources to afford to hire an expert or resource given that their operations are mostly small businesses.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of this much needed legislation to support farmers and small businesses on Kauai and throughout Hawaii nei.

Should I be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 245-7363.

Mahalo Nui Loa and Aloha,

  
Randall Francisco  
President/CEO



## TESTIMONY

**Date:** Tuesday February 10, 2015  
**Time:** 1:30. p.m.  
**Place:** Conference Room 224, State Capitol

February 9, 2015

**Honorable Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair**  
**Vice Chair Senator Lorraine R. Inouye and Members**  
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
**Honorable Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Chair**  
**Vice Chair Senator Gil Riviere, and Members**  
Committee on Agriculture  
Hawaii State Senate  
Honolulu Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Taniguchi and Ruderman and Vice Chairs Inouye and Riviere, and Members:  
**RE:** SB 314: Relating to the Agricultural Extension Service

**Aloha!** My name is Sandi Kato-Klutke, Administrative Coordinator, Kauai County Farm Bureau. The Kauai County Farm Bureau represents 250+ members. The Farm Bureau is writing in **Support of SB 314.**

This request is to appropriate funds for positions in the Cooperative Extension Service, especially, for the farmers on Kauai and the other neighbor islands. The staff are needed to help our farmers and members learn and get information for example, about best practices and other information so that farmers can continue to do what we do best, especially, in these challenging times.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of this much needed legislation to support farmers and small businesses on Kauai and throughout Hawaii.

Should I be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 651-9106 or email at [sushisandi@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:sushisandi@hawaii.rr.com)

Mahalo Nui Loa and Aloha,



Sandi Kato-Klutke  
Administrative Coordinator

Kauai County Farm Bureau  
Affiliated with Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation  
P.O. Box 3895, Lihue HI 96766-6895  
808-651-9106  
[sushisandi@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:sushisandi@hawaii.rr.com)  
The Voice of Kauai's Agriculture

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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB314 on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM  
**Date:** Monday, February 09, 2015 11:26:27 AM

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**SB314**

Submitted on: 2/9/2015

Testimony for HEA/AGL on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Louisa Wooton	Kauai Kunana Dairy	Support	Yes

Comments: Aloha kakou, Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 314. As manager for a full-time family farm on Kaua'i for the past 36 years, there is no way I can fully express the important role that the CTAHR Extension Service, its staff, and agents has played in the success our operation. I personally have worked on numerous projects with CTAHR through the years and received amazing educational assistance and encouragement as a farmer. Expanding the services of CTAHR by approving funding for two more agents will bring a ten-fold return to the entire population of our island. I am sure the same can be said for the other islands. Please approve this legislation for the benefit of not only the agricultural producers but for the consumers within the State of Hawaii. Mahalo, Louisa Wooton Kauai Kunana Dairy

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**To:** [HEA Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [nredfeather@kohalacenter.org](mailto:nredfeather@kohalacenter.org)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB314 on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM  
**Date:** Saturday, February 07, 2015 6:43:32 AM

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**SB314**

Submitted on: 2/7/2015

Testimony for HEA/AGL on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments: Increasing funding for extension at this time will be essential for giving CTAHR the support it needs to increase local production, provide quality community Extension Services, and insure sustainable growth in the agricultural industries of Hawai'i.

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Mason K. Chock  
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Arryl Kaneshiro  
KipuKai Kualii  
JoAnn A. Yukimura



**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK**

Ricky Watanabe, County Clerk  
Jade K. Fountain-Tanigawa, Deputy County Clerk

Telephone (808) 241-4188  
Fax (808) 241-6349  
Email [cokcouncil@kauai.gov](mailto:cokcouncil@kauai.gov)

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

February 9, 2015

**TESTIMONY OF KIPUKAI KUALII**  
**COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**ON**  
**SB 314, RELATING TO THE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE**  
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
Committee on Agriculture  
Tuesday, February 10, 2015  
1:30 P.M.  
Conference Room 224

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Chair Ruderman, and Committee Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 314, regarding the agricultural extension service. 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 Joint Committee 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

AB:cy

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**Cc:** [jacinthow001@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:jacinthow001@hawaii.rr.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB314 on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM  
**Date:** Sunday, February 08, 2015 9:01:56 AM

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**SB314**

Submitted on: 2/8/2015

Testimony for HEA/AGL on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
William Jacintho	Maui Cattlemen's Association	Support	No

Comments: The Maui Cattlemen's Asssocation Fully and Strongly Supports this bill. It is critical that this long time vacant Livestock position is filled. Maui County serves three islands, and the position not only works with the Livestock Producers, but also the 4H youth groups through out the County. These programs are great programs that keep our youth busy with a livestock project and off the streets, and out of trouble. Thank you, William G. Jacintho President, Maui Cattlemen's Association

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**To:** [HEA Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [amara@mindspring.com](mailto:amara@mindspring.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB314 on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM  
**Date:** Monday, February 09, 2015 2:00:12 PM

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**SB314**

Submitted on: 2/9/2015

Testimony for HEA/AGL on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Amara Karuna	Laakea community LLC	Support	No

Comments: Please support this measure. Amara Karuna

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**Cc:** [aipohaku@hotmail.com](mailto:aipohaku@hotmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB314 on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM  
**Date:** Monday, February 09, 2015 8:15:13 AM

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**SB314**

Submitted on: 2/9/2015

Testimony for HEA/AGL on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Vince Kana`i Dodge	`Ai Pohaku	Support	No

Comments: Aloha all, As a commercial fisherman in the 1980s I worked with CTAHR extension agent Mark Suiso. He did an excellent job! Have friends in the farming community who have consistently benefited from extension agent collaboration. PLz support SB314. together we can improve Hawaii's ability to grow more local food. aloha nui, vince Kana`i Dodge

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Cindy Goldstein, Ph. D  
Industry Relations Manager  
DuPont Pioneer  
Waialua Parent Seed, Kekaha Parent Seed  
Kunia Research Center, Waimea Research  
PO Box 520  
Waialua, HI 96791

SB 314, Relating to Agricultural Extension Service  
Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts and Committee on Agriculture  
Tuesday, February 10, 2015  
Room 224 at 1:30 p.m.

Position: Support

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Inouye; Chair Ruderman and Vice Chair Riviere, and members of the committees,

DuPont Pioneer is a seed company with farming operations in four locations in Hawaii. We carry out plant breeding work at our two Hawaii research sites to develop crops with improved characteristics, including greater insect and disease resistance, and higher yields. Our two parent seed locations multiply seeds to develop parents for new hybrids and varieties that are more productive for farmers in the US and around the world.

DuPont Pioneer employs approximately 300 people in a wide range of types of jobs on Oahu and Kaua`i, with degrees ranging from high school diplomas to Masters and Ph. D degrees. We have many UH graduates working at DuPont Pioneer, with the majority receiving degrees from the UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources.

We support all types of agriculture, and encourage funding of programs that help our farmers and agriculture sector thrive. Bill 314 aims to strengthen Hawaii's sustainable agriculture through educational extension programs that reach out to farmers.

We understand the benefit to farmers when our state extension agents are able to share science and technology resulting from their own studies and research conducted in Hawaii. Extension agents are often able to share innovative farming techniques with farmers, helping new farmers and experienced farmers become more successful. SB 314 bill would fill positions across the state, providing extension agents able to serve farmers growing a variety of crops across the islands.

We support this bill which provides funding for a range of positions, to enhance economic sustainability of many agriculture sectors including livestock and ranching operations, organic farming, food crop production and farmers raising tree crops.

Thank you for opportunity to provide testimony for appropriation of funds for the UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, for the Cooperative Extension Service.





# Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

Testimony for the Twenty Eighth Legislature, 2015  
State of Hawaii

## COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE ARTS

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair

## COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Chair  
Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chair

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 10, 2015  
1:30 P.M.  
Conference Room 224  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

A bill for an act

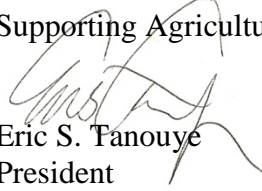
### **SB314** RELATING TO THE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

My name is Eric S. Tanouye and I am the President for the Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association. HFNA is a statewide umbrella organization with approximately 300 members. Our membership is made up with breeders, hybridizers, propagators, growers, shippers, wholesalers, retailers, educators, and the allied industry, which supports our efforts in agriculture.

We **SUPPORT** SB314 and believe it is important to have Extension Agent positions filled as they serve an important part to Hawaii's Agriculture Industry.

We ask you to consider supporting SB314. If you have any questions at this time, I would be happy to discuss them and can be reached by phone at 808-959-3535 ext 22, cell 960-1433 and email [eric@greenpointnursery.com](mailto:eric@greenpointnursery.com).

Supporting Agriculture and Hawaii,

  
Eric S. Tanouye  
President  
Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

## SB 314/ HB 850 FUNDING OF THE UH CTAHR COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

Chair Ruderman & Toguchi Vice Chair Riviere & Inouye and members of the Senate Agriculture & High Education Committee, I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of SB314/HB850 relating to the Cooperative Extension Service of the University of Hawaii, at Manoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources.

My name is Jensen Uyeda and I am from Mililani, Oahu and employed as a Junior Extension Agent by the UH Manoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. Today, I am providing personal testimony. I am in strong support of 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.

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.

A change in Hawaii's agriculture industry has prompted the need for responsive, cooperative educational programs in sustainable and responsible farming, marketing, pest management, risk management and environmental stewardship.

The economic success of producers relies on their ability to adapt their farming principles and practices to integrate the 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's agriculture.

I believe that bill SB314/HB 850 has much merit. I strongly recommend that it be funded. Ongoing funding to support CTAHR is crucial to the sustainability of Hawaii's diversified agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our strong support for HB 850.

Jensen Uyeda, Mililani, Oahu

## SB 314/ HB 850 FUNDING OF THE UH CTAHR COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

Chair Ruderman & Toguchi Vice Chair Riviere & Inouye and members of the Senate Agriculture & High Education Committee, I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of SB314/HB850 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 HB 850.

Jari S.K. Sugano, Mililani, Oahu

Personal Testimony Presented before the  
Senate Committees on Higher Education and the Arts and on Agriculture  
February 10, 2015 at 1:30 pm  
by  
Douglas L. Vincent, Ph.D., P.A.S.

SB 314 – RELATING TO THE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

Personal Testimony in Favor of SB 314

Chairs Taniguchi and Ruderman, Vice Chairs Inouye and Riviere 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 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). CES is just as relevant today 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. CES provides access to cost-saving, yield increasing and environmentally sound crops and practices. 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.



## 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](mailto:HCattlemens@hawaii.rr.com)

### SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION & THE ARTS SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

FEBRUARY 10, 2015 1:30 P.m. Room 224

### 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 Taniguchi, Chair Ruderman and Members of the Committees:

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.

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**SB314**

Submitted on: 2/8/2015

Testimony for HEA/AGL on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ann Evans	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**Date:** Monday, February 09, 2015 10:28:53 AM

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**SB314**

Submitted on: 2/9/2015

Testimony for HEA/AGL on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Carl Evensen	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this important measure to provide funding for 8 agricultural extension agent positions statewide. This would provide a tremendous boost to farming through provision of timely, science-based agricultural information to the farming community.

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**SB314**

Submitted on: 2/9/2015

Testimony for HEA/AGL on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Carlton York	Individual	Support	No

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**SB314**

Submitted on: 2/6/2015

Testimony for HEA/AGL on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Cory	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Hello legislators, Please support this funding to increase our ability to grow our own food, and stop relying on a vulnerable supply chain that runs thousands of miles across open ocean. Mahalo!

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**SB314**

Submitted on: 2/9/2015

Testimony for HEA/AGL on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
susan campbell	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this bill as an and as a member of the Hawaii Farmers Union.

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**SB314**

Submitted on: 2/9/2015

Testimony for HEA/AGL on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Courtney Bruch	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**Date:** Monday, February 09, 2015 12:19:16 PM

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**SB314**

Submitted on: 2/9/2015

Testimony for HEA/AGL on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dana G. Moss	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Our small farm community needs our support badly. We need more home grown food and not shipped in to be food secure. More personal can enhance this goal. Please support this bill. TY

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**SB314**

Submitted on: 2/8/2015

Testimony for HEA/AGL on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Denise Key	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB314**

Submitted on: 2/7/2015

Testimony for HEA/AGL on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Diane Ragone	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this bill. The state needs more extension agents to support agriculture, rural development, and best practices related to plants and animals on our farms and in our communities.

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**SB314**

Submitted on: 2/7/2015

Testimony for HEA/AGL on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Doug Phillips	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB314**

Submitted on: 2/8/2015

Testimony for HEA/AGL on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Eva Lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB314**

Submitted on: 2/8/2015

Testimony for HEA/AGL on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Felicia Cowden	Individual	Support	No

Comments: We need to strengthen our commitment to agricultural health. CTAHR can help.

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**SB314**

Submitted on: 2/9/2015

Testimony for HEA/AGL on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Greg Williams	Individual	Support	No

Comments: There is a strong need for additional extension agents on each island. The rapid influx of invasive species of plants and animals endangers ag. as never before. I have been in the coffee industry on Kauai for almost 30 years and now coffee's most devastating insect pest, the coffee berry borer, is just a short 20 minute plane ride away. Kauai extension is doing a great job with limited staff, but they need help. Mahalo.

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**SB314**

Submitted on: 2/9/2015

Testimony for HEA/AGL on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gwen Morinaga-Kama	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in support of SB 314 that would appropriate needed monies for much-needed additional Cooperative Extension agents for our County. As a certified Master Gardener, I see the tremendous role our Extension agents play in our quest of growing our own foods locally.

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**SB314**

Submitted on: 2/8/2015

Testimony for HEA/AGL on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jacqueline S. Ambrose	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB314**

Submitted on: 2/8/2015

Testimony for HEA/AGL on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jeff Lind	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB314**

Submitted on: 2/7/2015

Testimony for HEA/AGL on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
John McHugh	Individual	Support	No

Comments: For agriculture in Hawaii to succeed there needs to be commitment from our State government. Providing support and funding for county agents on all islands is one way to demonstrate that commitment. The transfer of technology from the Ivory Tower on the hill to the farmers is crucial to the success of agriculture in our State. Therefore I strongly support this bill and hope that our State legislators will show their support for agriculture in Hawaii by supporting this bill and funding the agents at a level that will allow them to succeed.

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**SB314**

Submitted on: 2/9/2015

Testimony for HEA/AGL on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

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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**SB314**

Submitted on: 2/8/2015

Testimony for HEA/AGL on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lars Lind	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**Cc:** [LaurieHo1@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:LaurieHo1@hawaiiantel.net)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB314 on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM  
**Date:** Sunday, February 08, 2015 5:12:12 PM

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**SB314**

Submitted on: 2/8/2015

Testimony for HEA/AGL on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Laurie Ho	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Chair Ruderman! I would like to urge your committee to support and appropriate money for critically needed Cooperative Extension Service positions. These Extension Agents are important links in our agricultural community here on the neighbor island of Kauai. As a volunteer community member I appreciate the support of Kauai Cooperative Extension Agents. We need them. Please fund the 8 CTAHR positions. Mahalo!

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**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB314 on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM\*  
**Date:** Monday, February 09, 2015 8:26:09 AM

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**SB314**

Submitted on: 2/9/2015

Testimony for HEA/AGL on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lucia You	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**Date:** Sunday, February 08, 2015 11:37:21 AM

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**SB314**

Submitted on: 2/8/2015

Testimony for HEA/AGL on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Martha Lind	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB314 on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM\*  
**Date:** Monday, February 09, 2015 6:40:27 AM

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**SB314**

Submitted on: 2/9/2015

Testimony for HEA/AGL on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mary Lacques	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**Date:** Friday, February 06, 2015 8:22:47 PM

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**SB314**

Submitted on: 2/6/2015

Testimony for HEA/AGL on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Megan Fox	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB314**

Submitted on: 2/9/2015

Testimony for HEA/AGL on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Patrick Harley Simmons	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**Date:** Sunday, February 08, 2015 6:38:44 PM

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**SB314**

Submitted on: 2/8/2015

Testimony for HEA/AGL on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rebecca Sydney	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**Date:** Sunday, February 08, 2015 6:21:49 PM

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**SB314**

Submitted on: 2/8/2015

Testimony for HEA/AGL on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rena Robertson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**Date:** Saturday, February 07, 2015 10:12:41 AM

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**SB314**

Submitted on: 2/7/2015

Testimony for HEA/AGL on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rosemarie Patronette	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB314**

Submitted on: 2/7/2015

Testimony for HEA/AGL on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Russell Messing	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB314**

Submitted on: 2/9/2015

Testimony for HEA/AGL on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Support

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**SB314**

Submitted on: 2/8/2015

Testimony for HEA/AGL on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
sharon	Individual	Support	No

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**SB314**

Submitted on: 2/9/2015

Testimony for HEA/AGL on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
sherri carden	Individual	Support	No

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**Date:** Sunday, February 08, 2015 9:01:37 PM

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**SB314**

Submitted on: 2/8/2015

Testimony for HEA/AGL on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
stacy vosberg	Individual	Support	No

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**SB314**

Submitted on: 2/9/2015

Testimony for HEA/AGL on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Stephen Luksic	Individual	Support	No

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**SB314**

Submitted on: 2/9/2015

Testimony for HEA/AGL on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sunny Savage-Luskin	Individual	Support	No

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