

SB 355

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT &
HIGHER EDUCATION**

**FEBRUARY 7, 2017
1:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**SENATE BILL NO. 355
RELATING TO THE SUSTAINABLE AND ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PROGRAM**

Chairpersons Gabbard and Kahele and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 355, which provides for an appropriation of \$250,000 to support new research and extension personnel to expand and fortify the Sustainable and Organic Agriculture Program at the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. The Department supports this measure.

The expansion of organic agriculture is the fastest growing segment in production agriculture in the U.S. Additionally, sustainable agriculture techniques and tools are important for all forms of agriculture practiced in Hawaii. Those widely adopted sustainable agricultural practices such as cover crops for managing soil stability, fertility and pest management; no till/minimum till field management; biological control of key agricultural and floricultural pests; and the identification and selection of high yielding, high value crop plant varieties and cultivars appropriate for cultivation in Hawaii, are but a few of the sustainable agricultural practices that are key to the success of all segments of agriculture in our State.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



To: Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Senator Kaili'i Kahele
From: Alton S. Arakaki, Extension Agent

I am providing this testimony in support of S.B. No 355 Related to the Sustainable and Organic Agriculture Program at the University of Hawaii, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources.

There is an increasing need for science-based information and knowledge for producing “organic” and sustainable products in Hawai'i. Over that last 15 years, consumer demand for “organic” and sustainable food products have been increasing. The increase in market demand for products produced in this specialized method of farming, offer small farm families in Hawaii opportunities to compete in the global farming business. However science-based production information and knowledge for this method of farming at commercial scale has not kept up with the pace needed to meet the demand for knowledge, especially to meet the needs of grower farming in the many micro-climates in Hawai'i. The Cooperative Extension Service of CTAHR is in a unique position to help address this issue with Extension Agents located in all Counties and working with farmers in many of our microclimates.

Over the last 15 years consumer demand for “organic” and sustainable products have been on the rise. Specialized retail markets have sprung up throughout the country and some in Hawai'i. National grocery stores such as Whole Foods Market and Sprouts build their store around these products to meet the consumer demand. Hawai'i organic retailers have been attempting to increase their source of products from Hawai'i farmers, and have been putting pressure on their supplier to meet the demand. This market driven economic situation is good for small farm families and created opportunities for them to compete and stay in farming, something all of us in Hawai'i will benefit from as we strive to become more independent in our food supply not just for our need to diversify our economy but also for our island State security.

In 2011, excluding sugar and pineapple, the average farm size in Hawai'i was 10 acres. At this farm size, farm families could hardly capture the economic benefits that come from “economy of scale”. These small farms will not be able to compete with growers that build their business around large-scale commodity pricing. Small farms cannot afford large capital equipment and technologies that contribute to decreasing the cost of production. However, “organic” and sustainable farming practices that call for and require diversity in crops, and in the production and growing environment; and flexibility to adapt to changes allow small farmers to maintain their economic viability and competitiveness. However, grower need to increase their management skills when using these production methods to grow their produce.

Hawai'i farmers grow crops in many of Hawaii's microclimates, from arid Hoolehua, Moloka'i to the upper slope of Haleakala on Maui and Mauna Loa, Hawaii Island. Climate is a major factor that influence crop production and their growing environment, such as the soil microorganisms health. There is a continuous need for science-based information that growers can depend on to help them project and reduce risks in producing their crops. With State and Countywide presence UH/CTAHR/CES is in a unique position in agriculture higher education that can help address issues faced by growers engaged in “organic” and sustainable farming. For these reasons I support Senate Bill No. 355 Relating to the Sustainable and Organic Agriculture Program.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
And
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, February 7, 2017 at 1:00 p.m.

By
Rachel Novotny, Interim Dean
And
J. Kenneth Grace, Associate Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 355 – RELATING TO THE SUSTAINABLE AND ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

Chairs Gabbard and Kahele, Vice Chairs Riviere and Kidani, and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment and Committee on Higher Education:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 355, which appropriates funds for three positions and operating expenses of the sustainable and organic agriculture program administered by the UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR).

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 Biennium 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.

Sustainable and regenerative agricultural practices are essential in Hawai'i to meet the goal of doubling food production. Through statewide collaborations, SOAP has also worked to increase adoption and acreage of Hawaii's organic fruit and vegetable operations. These industries were recently valued at over \$12.1 million, compared to \$7.6 million in 2008 (a nearly 60% 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 will greatly increase such demand in the FY 2018 fiscal year. SB 355 would provide the amount of \$250,000 for each year of the biennium 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 355.



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

February 5, 2017

Legislative Testimony in support of SB 355

HFUU Board of
Directors

Executive Committee

Vincent Mina
President
HFUU

Testimony presented to the Senate Committee on Agriculture and the Environment
Tuesday, February 7 2017 at 1:00 PM

By
Simon Russell, Chairperson, HFUU Legislative Committee

Ray Maki
Vice-President
HFUU

Aloha Chairman Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere and members of the Committee,
Hawaii Farmers Union United strongly supports SB 355.

Anny Bruch
Secretary
HFUU

We have great admiration for this program of the University of Hawaii. We see that out of all the methods of agriculture that are out there, Sustainable and Organic methods are very popular with the next generation of farmers.

Karen Reid
Treasurer
HFUU

This measure before you will add much needed personnel and increase the programs capacity to operate.

Directors

HFUU supports the UH Sustainable and Organic Agriculture Program (SOAP) and would like to see it eventually expand to all islands.

Christian Zukerman
Wai'anae

With your support, this essential program will play an important role for our collective food self sufficient and security.

Sean Anderson
Waimanalo

Simon Russell
Haleakalā

One fact that should not be missed is that this program is working with fertilizers that are made here in the islands and this is essential work. Farmers need to know how to make their own fertilizers, as soil fertility is one of the major costs of production. Replacing fertilizer imports will be an important step forward for Hawaii.

Mikala Minn
Hāna

James Simpliciano
Mauna Kahalawai

We appreciate your support for this important step forward for Hawaii's agricultural future.

Steve Sakala
Kona

Respectfully Submitted,
HAWAII FARMERS UNION UNITED
Simon Russell
HFUU State Legislative Committee Chairperson

Greg Smith
Ka'u

Clarence Baber
Kohala

The Hawai'i Farmers Union United and its Chapters is a nonprofit corporation formed under Hawai'i law. It advocates for the sovereign right of farmers ranchers and fishers to create and sustain vibrant and prosperous agricultural communities for the benefit of all Hawai'i through cooperation, education and legislation.



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 7, 2017

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

TESTIMONY ON SB 355
RELATING TO RELATING TO THE SUSTAINABLE AND ORGANIC AGRICULTURE
PROGRAM

Room 224
1:00 PM

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Kahele, Vice Chairs Riviere and Kidani, and Members of the Committees:

I am Randy Cabral, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB 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 support SB 355, which appropriates funds for three positions and operating expenses of the sustainable and organic agriculture program administered by the UH college of tropical agriculture and human resources.

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 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.



February 6, 2017

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair and Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair and Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Hawaii State Capitol, 415 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Gabbard and Kahele, Vice Chairs Riviere and Kidani, and Members of the Committees,

The Hawaii Aquaculture and Aquaponics Association (HAAA) **supports SB 355**, "Relating to the Sustainable and Organic Agriculture Program," which would appropriate funds for three positions and operating expenses for the SOAP program under CTAHR. This program is well worth the relatively small amount of funding proposed under SB 355.

HAAA's membership consists of companies and individuals interested in aquaculture and aquaponics. Aquaponics in particular is considered to be one of the most sustainable agricultural systems, and a large proportion of aquaponic producers also seek organic certification. Our membership is highly interested in the research and outreach programs of SOAP, including integrated pest management, trials of different crop varieties, and training opportunities in various aspects of sustainable agriculture. HAAA routinely forwards copies of SOAP's newsletter to our mailing list of more than 200 people. We therefore hope that your committees will see the benefits of SOAP in expanding Hawaii's diversified agriculture, and will support the passage of SB 355.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ronald P. Weidenbach". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "R".

Ronald Weidenbach
President, Hawaii Aquaculture and Aquaponics Association

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 11:27 AM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: hoonanea@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB355 on Feb 7, 2017 13:00PM*

SB355

Submitted on: 2/1/2017

Testimony for AEN/HRE on Feb 7, 2017 13:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Regina Gregory	EcoTipping Points Project	Support	No

Comments:

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Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2017 7:40 AM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: yoshitol@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB355 on Feb 7, 2017 13:00PM

SB355

Submitted on: 2/5/2017

Testimony for AEN/HRE on Feb 7, 2017 13:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Yoshito L'Hote	Aina Ho'okupu o Kilauea	Support	No

Comments: need to increase organic production

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 3, 2017 9:36 AM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: pamelaboyar@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB355 on Feb 7, 2017 13:00PM*

SB355

Submitted on: 2/3/2017

Testimony for AEN/HRE on Feb 7, 2017 13:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pamela Boyar	Farm Lovers Farmers Markets	Support	No

Comments:

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Testimony of
Kylie Matsuda-Lum
SB 355
Relating to the Sustainable and Organic Agriculture Program

Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Committee on Higher Education

Tuesday, February 7, 2017
1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 224

Chairs Gabbard and Kahele, Vice Chairs Riviere and Kidani and members of the Senate Agriculture and Environment and Higher Education Committee: Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in **Strong Support** of SB 355 relating to the Sustainable and Organic Agriculture Program.

My name is Kylie Matsuda-Lum of Kahuku Farms. My family, the Matsuda's along with the Fukuyama's have been farming on the North Shore of Oahu for over 100 years. Today we farm on about 120 acres of state leased land and our produce can be found in many local supermarkets across the island.

We are transitioning 5 acres of our land into organic farming and are currently going through the certification process. As caring farmers, we always strive to learn more about responsible agricultural practices and rely on programs such as the Sustainable and Organic Agriculture Program (SOAP) for direction and leadership. Although there may be a lot of research being done on the mainland, it is important to have Hawaii programs with experiments and research done locally as our needs here are much different of that to mainland farmers.

With the help and support of SOAP educators, our goal is to continue to transition other parts of our land as we move forward.

I believe that bill SB 355 has much value and 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 my strong support of SB 355.

Kylie Matsuda-Lum



"Grown with Love"

PO Box 534
Waimanalo, Hawai'i 96795

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, February 7, 2017 1:00 pm
Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 355 – Relating to the Sustainable and Organic Agricultural Program

Chair Gabbard, Chair Kahele and Members of the Committees:

My name is Tom Grande. My wife and I grow tropical fruits and flowers in Waimanalo.

I strongly urge your support of SB 355 providing for additional positions and funding for the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources Sustainable and Organic Agriculture Program.

The breadth and depth of the support CTAHR and SOAP provide to the local agricultural community is extraordinary. There are three primary areas that CTAHR and SOAP provide invaluable agriculture services:

Research – CTAHR and SOAP are at the forefront of researching, investigating, testing and reporting on new and old sustainable practices, including techniques to control agricultural pests and to test produce varieties.

Education – CTAHR and SOAP provide direct education to farmers and gardeners through periodic field days and other programs.

Direct Service – CTAHR and SOAP provide direct service to farmers and gardeners by responding to individual requests for information and guidance.

CTAHR and SOAP face unique challenges that further support these increased staffing and funding request:

- In some other states, these services are often provided by separate entities. In effect, CTAHR and SOAP have the responsibilities of three agencies.
- Unlike most other states, in Hawai'i, the constant influx of invasive species and new agricultural pests present a constantly changing environment that require constantly evolving research, testing and education.

Please provide this additional funding for this very worthy program. Thank you very much.

Thomas R. Grande

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2017 2:18 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: tracy.emills@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB355 on Feb 7, 2017 13:00PM*

SB355

Submitted on: 2/5/2017

Testimony for AEN/HRE on Feb 7, 2017 13:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tracy E Mills	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2017 11:57 AM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: deborah@imaginariums.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB355 on Feb 7, 2017 13:00PM*

SB355

Submitted on: 2/5/2017

Testimony for AEN/HRE on Feb 7, 2017 13:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Deborah Davis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2017 11:35 AM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: raphiell@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB355 on Feb 7, 2017 13:00PM*

SB355

Submitted on: 2/5/2017

Testimony for AEN/HRE on Feb 7, 2017 13:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Raphiell Nolin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2017 11:27 AM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: tina@kiheiice.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB355 on Feb 7, 2017 13:00PM

SB355

Submitted on: 2/5/2017

Testimony for AEN/HRE on Feb 7, 2017 13:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tina Wildberger	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please advance this bill so Hawaii can support organic sustainable agricultural practices.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2017 10:47 AM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: sharedpleasures@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB355 on Feb 7, 2017 13:00PM

SB355

Submitted on: 2/5/2017

Testimony for AEN/HRE on Feb 7, 2017 13:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
vicki levin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: strongly support this bill

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Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2017 10:29 AM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: alohalways@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB355 on Feb 7, 2017 13:00PM*

SB355

Submitted on: 2/5/2017

Testimony for AEN/HRE on Feb 7, 2017 13:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tanja Miller	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: AEN Testimony
Cc: molivit@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB355 on Feb 7, 2017 13:00PM*

SB355

Submitted on: 2/5/2017

Testimony for AEN/HRE on Feb 7, 2017 13:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Isabelle Olivit	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2017 9:09 AM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: ihemphi@live.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB355 on Feb 7, 2017 13:00PM*

SB355

Submitted on: 2/5/2017

Testimony for AEN/HRE on Feb 7, 2017 13:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Denise Key	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2017 8:17 AM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: reneeariley@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB355 on Feb 7, 2017 13:00PM

SB355

Submitted on: 2/5/2017

Testimony for AEN/HRE on Feb 7, 2017 13:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Renee Riley	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support the UH College of Agriculture and Human Resources Sustainable and Organic Agriculture Program. We need to help train future farmers.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2017 7:41 AM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: yoshitol@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB355 on Feb 7, 2017 13:00PM

SB355

Submitted on: 2/5/2017

Testimony for AEN/HRE on Feb 7, 2017 13:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Yoshito L'Hote	Individual	Support	No

Comments: promoting alternative ag is the future

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2017 6:58 AM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: taragrace808@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB355 on Feb 7, 2017 13:00PM*

SB355

Submitted on: 2/5/2017

Testimony for AEN/HRE on Feb 7, 2017 13:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tara Grace	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2017 6:08 AM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: katc31999@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB355 on Feb 7, 2017 13:00PM*

SB355

Submitted on: 2/5/2017

Testimony for AEN/HRE on Feb 7, 2017 13:00PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments:

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February 1, 2017

SB 355 RELATING TO THE SUSTAINABLE AND ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PROGRAM.

Chairs Gabbard & Kahele, Vice Chairs Riviere & Kidani and members of the Senate Agriculture and Environment and Higher Education, thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in **strong support of SB 355** relating to the Sustainable and Organic Agriculture Program (SOAP) 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.

Small acreage and family owned farms now account for majority of Hawaii's agriculture industry on Oahu. According to the 2012 Census of Agriculture, eighty-eight percent of farms in Hawaii are less than 50 acres in size, but only account for ten percent of the industry's sales. Public interest in commercial food production is on the rise with new statewide farmer education initiatives and sustainable 'grow more local food' promotions. Asian immigrants have also entered Hawaii's agriculture industry with little to no experience in sustainable crop production. Due to their remote locations, lack of trust in government programs, and need to stay close to their farming area, these under represented developing agricultural areas need more educational support from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (UH CTAHR).

The Sustainable and Organic Agriculture Program (SOAP) at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (UH CTAHR) remains committed to providing continuing education, in the form of agricultural professional conferences, growers workshops, field day activities, web based newsletters, applied field research in sustainable and organic agriculture, and in field technical support for agricultural professionals and producers across the state.

Agriculture in Hawaii that was once dominated by the sugar and pineapple industry has shifted towards a diversified agricultural system. Increased food self-sufficiency and security is a priority for our program, as well as our state, as we live in an island state

which relies on 85-90% of imports as its primary food source (State of Hawaii, Department of Business Economic Development and Tourism, 2012).

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 surge in request and for responsive, cooperative educational programs in sustainable and organic farming, marketing, pest management, risk management and environmental stewardship.

Awareness and adoption of sustainable agriculture practices is increasing within the State of Hawaii. The 2014 Organic Production Survey conducted by the USDA NASS provides additional evidence of grower adoption of sustainable agricultural production practices such as organic mulch/compost, green/animal manures, no-till or minimum till, maintained buffer strips, water management practices, biological pest management, maintaining beneficial insect or vertebrate habitat, selecting planting locations to avoid pests, releasing beneficial organisms, choosing pest resistant varieties, and planning plantings to avoid cross-contamination. Hawaii organic fruit and vegetable production is increasing in acreage and valued over \$12.1 million dollars compared to \$7.6 million in 2008. Hawaii's organic crop values are now higher than 14 other states in the continental USA. (Honolulu Star Advertiser, October 26, 2015)

The ability to continue and expand our applied research on farmland which includes CTAHR's certified organic lands, on farm field trials, and recruitment of field support positions are needed to fill immediate research and educational gaps and increase our ability to answer and respond to emerging and re-occurring issues in support of Hawaii's diversified agriculture industry.

I believe that bill SB 355 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 SB 355

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 2:21 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: cchaudron08@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB355 on Feb 7, 2017 13:00PM*

SB355

Submitted on: 2/1/2017

Testimony for AEN/HRE on Feb 7, 2017 13:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Camila Chaudron	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 10:58 AM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: jolene92@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB355 on Feb 7, 2017 13:00PM

SB355

Submitted on: 2/1/2017

Testimony for AEN/HRE on Feb 7, 2017 13:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jolene Lau	Individual	Support	No

Comments: We are fortunate to have farmers and ranchers who wish to provide us with locally grown food instead of relying on imported products. These land stewards need the expertise and resources that CTAHR can provide. Please support SB355 so that the subject matter experts at CTAHR can continue assisting our farmers and ensure that we have healthy food grown locally. For your consideration, Jolene Lau

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Testimony of Steven Chiang

IN SUPPORT OF SB355

Relating to the Sustainable and Organic Agriculture Program
Before the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

February 7, 2017

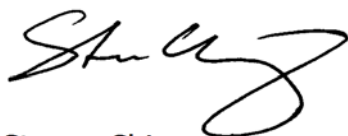
Chairperson Gabbard and members of the committee:

In my professional roles as Director of the University of Hawaii's Agribusiness Incubator and GoFarm Hawaii programs, I know the good and important work that the Sustainable and Organic Agriculture Program (SOAP) does for our community. SOAP brings together UH resources relevant to sustainable farmers of Hawaii to the effect of having more access and impact. My own programs contribute to and utilize the projects and resources of SOAP.

I have been tremendously impressed by the activities and outreach of SOAP, to the degree that I have recommended them as a model for other organizations to emulate. And yet SOAP is currently dependent upon voluntary efforts from already-overworked people who volunteer because they recognize the need for, and impact of, this program for Hawaii's farmers.

SOAP is a success story that can be sustained and made more impactful with the positions requested in this bill and I therefore urge your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven Chiang', written in a cursive style.

Steven Chiang

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 4:04 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB355 on Feb 7, 2017 13:00PM*

SB355

Submitted on: 1/31/2017

Testimony for AEN/HRE on Feb 7, 2017 13:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 7:32 AM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: deshayne@deshayne.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB355 on Feb 7, 2017 13:00PM

SB355

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for AEN/HRE on Feb 7, 2017 13:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Donn DeShayne	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this bill because modern science has shown that organic sustainable agriculture 1) protects the water table from dangerous chemicals and excess nitrates, 2) does not create 'super weeds,' 3) approaches yields of chemical farming in good years and surpasses in bad years, 4) lessens dependence on imported inputs and 5) is safer for agricultural workers and 6) produces crops with higher nutritional value and shelf life. This awareness needs to be encouraged throughout the agricultural education system. Mahalo.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 6:51 AM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: alohapowers@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB355 on Feb 7, 2017 13:00PM

SB355

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for AEN/HRE on Feb 7, 2017 13:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
megan powers	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Recent FDA studies show the presence of Glyphosate in most foods at levels higher than considered acceptable. Switching to Organic Ag is the only way we will eliminate poisons in our food, water, air and our bodies. Recent DOH studies of 38 Water sources in Hawaii all showed pesticide contamination. It's our responsibility to be good ancestors and protect future generations by our current actions. Increasing the application of organic Ag worldwide is one of the best and most effective ways we can do that.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 4:44 AM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: akamaimom@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB355 on Feb 7, 2017 13:00PM

SB355

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for AEN/HRE on Feb 7, 2017 13:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Felicia Cowden	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Mahalo for this bill. We very much need to encourage the family, food production farm. It is gratifying to see the shift at the state level for respecting and investing in this important level of building resilience for Hawaii. The encouragement of locally produced, healthy food not only is good for our food supply, but reduces the flow of waste to our landfills, and keeps more money and opportunity within our islands.
Felicia Cowden Kilauea, Kauai

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2017 10:08 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: chris@mentzel.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB355 on Feb 7, 2017 13:00PM*

SB355

Submitted on: 2/5/2017

Testimony for AEN/HRE on Feb 7, 2017 13:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris Mentzel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2017 8:10 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: neil.vonhof@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB355 on Feb 7, 2017 13:00PM*

SB355

Submitted on: 2/5/2017

Testimony for AEN/HRE on Feb 7, 2017 13:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Neil Vonhof	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 3:34 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: tulsigreenlee@icloud.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB355 on Feb 7, 2017 13:00PM*

SB355

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for AEN/HRE on Feb 7, 2017 13:00PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 2:52 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: johnnaylor@kula.us
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB355 on Feb 7, 2017 13:00PM

SB355

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for AEN/HRE on Feb 7, 2017 13:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John NAYLOR	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Don't panic, Organic means less pesticides,herbicides, No GMO's & healthier keiki ,soil & kai.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 11:56 AM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: breezybees808@Gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB355 on Feb 7, 2017 13:00PM

SB355

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for AEN/HRE on Feb 7, 2017 13:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Briana Hurley	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support this bill. It's getting increasingly more difficult to get young people into farming, and by supporting the programs it makes it just a little easier.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 6:33 AM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: mary@mauivortex.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB355 on Feb 7, 2017 13:00PM

SB355

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for AEN/HRE on Feb 7, 2017 13:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Overbay	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: NO money for GMO's! Please, ban the production of all GMO's from Hawaii. Glyphosate is poison.

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