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Governor

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PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

LATE

TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

FEBRUARY 8, 2017
8:30 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 312

HOUSE BILL NO. 1311
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Creagan and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1311. This bill provides funding for the continued work of the K-12 agriculture workforce development pipeline initiative in the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) to conduct trainings for teachers and school administrators in agricultural self-sufficiency on all islands. The Department supports this bill but would defer to the DLIR.

The Department participated in the Agriculture Workforce Advisory Board that was created by Act 99, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013. Along with the DLIR, Department of Education, University of Hawaii, Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, and a representative from the farming community, discussions were held to find ways to increase our current agricultural workforce. Recent numbers from the 2012 US Agricultural Census has found the average age of farmers in Hawaii is over 63 years old. It is the Department's goal to reverse this trend and we look forward to continued collaboration with our brother and sister agencies and the public to achieve this goal.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



LINDA CHU TAKAYAMA
DIRECTOR

LEONARD HOSHIJO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

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February 8, 2017

TO: The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair,
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice-Chair, and
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Date: Wednesday, February 8, 2017
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 312, State Capitol

From: Linda Chu Takayama, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

Re: H.B. No. 1311 Relating to Agriculture

I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

HB1311 proposes to establish a K-12 Agriculture Workforce Development Pipeline Initiative in DLIR to conduct training on all islands in agricultural self-sufficiency for teachers and school administrators. The measure appropriates \$75,000 or so much as may be necessary for FY 2017-2018 and FY 2018-2019 to DLIR for the hiring of one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) resource teacher.

The Department supports the intent of this bill provided its passage does not replace or adversely affect priorities identified in the Governor's Executive Budget request and requests amendments as offered below.

DLIR notes that recent agricultural workforce initiatives have resulted in a 60% increase in the number of high schools participating as FFA Chapters and a 147% increase in FFA student membership.

II. CURRENT LAW

Act 99 (SLH, 2013) established the Hawaii Agriculture Workforce Advisory Board to advise DLIR on, among other things, projects and programs promoting the expansion and development of the State's agricultural industry. Act 229 SLH, (2016) implemented the recommendation of the Hawaii Agriculture Workforce

Advisory Board in creating an Agriculture Workforce Development Pipeline Initiative to conduct training on all islands for teachers and school administrators in agricultural self-sufficiency. Act 229 included an appropriation of \$200,000 to DLIR for FY 16-17 to conduct training regarding agricultural self-sufficiency for teachers and administrators on all islands.

In collaboration with the University of Hawaii, Center for Tropical Agriculture (CTAHR), and Department of Education, the Department plans to purchase a standardized core curriculum (Case Curriculum) for agricultural education and provide teachers with a weeklong training session at the University of Hawaii. Funds will also pay for the teachers' travel and purchase of agricultural supplies for their classrooms. Research by the University of Hawaii and recommendations made by the Future Farmers of America (FFA) teacher advisors during their statewide meeting last summer led to the selection of Case Curriculum.

III. COMMENTS ON THE HOUSE BILL

The department supports the intent of this bill as an important next step to refine and expand upon this year's agricultural teacher training, provided sufficient funds are appropriated and its passage does not replace or adversely affect priorities identified in the Governor's Executive Budget request.

The Agricultural Workforce Advisory Board was an outgrowth from a series of Agricultural Skill Panels convened in all counties in 2013¹. Over 600 stakeholders collectively identified issues regarding expansion of the agricultural workforce and developed recommendations. The Board reviewed the Agricultural Skill Panel recommendations and recommended language that was codified by Act 229 (§ 371-21) to address lack of information and misperceptions about agricultural science. The intended result is to generate interest and excitement for jobs in agriculture that can be passed on to students and promote expansion of the agricultural workforce.

Based on its experience with small pilot projects in coordination with the Agricultural Workforce Advisory Board and Department of Education, the Department has learned that pilot projects can have a big impact. For example, the department funded one and two-day statewide training sessions for FFA teacher advisors and agricultural internships over the past two summers. These activities, with the dedicated support of FFA advisors, resulted in a 60% increase in the number of high schools participating as FFA Chapters and a 147% increase in FFA student membership. These results, after just two summers, dramatically reversed the trend of prior years when numbers of FFA chapters and student members were steadily decreasing, primarily due to retirements and non-replacement of teachers in agricultural science.

DLIR offers the following suggested amendments to the House Bill for the Committee's consideration:

1. Page 2, line 2 section 2 (b), replace "headed" with "supported"
2. Page 2, line 3 section 2 (b), replace the phrase beginning with "and who shall be appointed by the director" with the phrase "and who shall be appointed by the director in collaboration with the DOE for purposes of personnel action, subject to chapter 76."

¹ http://labor.hawaii.gov/wdc/files/2013/06/AgSkillPanelReport_web.pdf



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Agriculture
Wednesday, February 8, 2017 at 8:30 a.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

HB 1311 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 1311, which establishes a K-12 Agriculture Workforce Development Pipeline Initiative in DLIR to conduct training for teachers and school administrators in agricultural self-sufficiency; and appropriates funds for this purpose.

HB 1311 implements the recommendation by the Hawai'i agriculture workforce advisory board, of which the Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR), University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, was a member, for training on all islands for teachers and school administrators in agricultural self-sufficiency. Although we defer to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations on fiscal and management implications, we believe that implementation of this recommendation assists in the development of an educated and well-trained agricultural workforce in Hawai'i, and complements such related efforts as Future Farmers of America, 4-H, and Farm to School programming. This effort to bolster agricultural education in the schools also ties into the work of the current P-20 Agricultural Education Working Group, convened by the Dean of CTAHR at the direction of the Legislature.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 1311.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 1:40 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1311 on Feb 8, 2017 08:30AM*

HB1311

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 8, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

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

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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February 8, 2017

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 1311
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 312
8:30 AM

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and Members of the Committee:

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.

Hawaii Farm Bureau strongly supports HB 1311, which establishes a K-12 Agriculture Workforce Development Pipeline Initiative in DLIR to conduct training for teachers and school administrators in agricultural self-sufficiency.

Hawaii's commercial farmers' average age is over 60 years. To maintain and expand production levels, it's clear that we need a new generation of farmers and ranchers equipped to assume the task of growing crops and livestock. This is critical to achieving Hawaii's goal of increased self-sufficiency and sustainability.

DLIR, under Director Takamine's and HDOA Chair Kokubun's leadership, undertook a series of facilitated meetings with farmers, ranchers, educators and a diverse group of stakeholders across the state between 2007 and 2011. Its report was published. This report: Hawaii Agriculture Skill Panel Report, made a number of recommendations, of which several common themes emerged. #1 of those themes is 'Increasing youth education and training'.

In 2013, the Hawaii State Legislature saw fit to establish the Agriculture Workforce Advisory Board via HB 749 of that year. This Board convenes, in part, to execute the recommendations of Hawaii Agriculture Skill Panel Report. This board established a program by which educators and school administrators can be exposed and incentivized to adopt existing broad-based agricultural curriculums. This is an important step toward the future of agriculture in Hawaii. The activities enabled by passage of this legislation will continue to implement strategies yielding favorable outcomes for the state's economy, particularly the agricultural sector.

We ask for your support to continue funding the operations of the K-12 Agriculture Workforce Development Pipeline Initiative. Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments on this measure.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 10:48 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: director@bettercropshawaii.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1311 on Feb 8, 2017 08:30AM*

HB1311

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 8, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
BENNETTE MISALUCHA	Hawaii Crop Improvement Association	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 7, 2017 5:09 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: gifts9954@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1311 on Feb 8, 2017 08:30AM*



HB1311

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 8, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Vickery	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 8:21 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: rkailianu57@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1311 on Feb 8, 2017 08:30AM*

LATE

HB1311

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 8, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachel L. Kailianu	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

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