



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Finance  
Thursday, February 22, 2018 at 12:30 p.m.

By  
Nicholas Comerford  
Dean, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources  
And  
Michael Bruno  
Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 1968 HD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COLLEGE OF  
TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES COOPERATIVE EXTENSION  
SERVICE

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the House Committee on Finance:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 1968 HD1 which appropriates funds for fiscal year 2018-2019 to the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) Cooperative Extension Service (CES) for four full-time ornamental plant extension agents—one each for the City and County of Honolulu, eastern portion of the County of Hawai'i, County of Maui, and County of Kaua'i.

As indicated in the bill, the CTAHR CES has experienced a significant decrease in personnel. The CTAHR CES is unique in that it is the branch of the University that works throughout the state with its citizens to provide solutions to their lives. The CES translates research into actionable programs with the expectation of helping growers become more efficient and more economically viable. Given the high wholesale value of the ornamental plant industry in Hawai'i (approximately \$70 million and 12,000 jobs), the industry has identified a need for agents. Significant problems face the industry including new pests and diseases, water relations, and climate change. Extension agents, being the bridge between research and action on the ground, will help the industry address these challenges.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 1968 HD 1, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Supplemental Budget Request.



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 22, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**TESTIMONY ON HB 1968, HD1**  
RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COLLEGE OF TROPICAL  
AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

Room 308  
12:30 PM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, 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.

**The Hawaii Farm Bureau strongly supports HB 1968, HD 1**, which appropriates funds to the UH college of tropical agriculture and human resources cooperative extension service for four full-time ornamental plant extension agents.

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. CTAHR has helped develop and improve agricultural technologies pertinent to Hawaii's farmers. 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.

Hawaii's ornamental plant production exceeds \$70 million annually in wholesale value, and contributes greatly to Hawaii's image as a lush tropical paradise. Oahu produces a significant portion of this value but has not had a dedicated ornamental plant extension agent since the end of 2009. The recent emergence of new diseases that threaten ornamental ginger production adds to the need for assistance in this field.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 22, 2018  
12:30 P.M.  
Conference Room 308  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

**SUPPORT FOR HB1968 HD1 - RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE.**

Aloha,

My name is Thong Teng Neo and am the current President of the Hawaii Tropical Flower Council (HTFC). HTFC is a statewide association of commodity organizations, ie: anthurium, orchid, protea, tropic flowers and foliages, blooming and foliage plants. The Hawai'i Tropical Flower Council directs promotion and supports research of Hawaii's tropical flower industry. Each of the state's major flower commodity groups (anthuriums, orchids, proteas, tropic flowers and foliages, blooming and foliage plants) is represented on the council's board of directors. HTFC serves as a non-profit Hawaii Corporation to promote for its commodity groups and other producers of tropical horticulture grown in the State of Hawaii.

We would like to express our **support** for **HB1968 HD1 - RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE.**

We believe funding for full-time equivalent ornamental plant extension agent positions for CTAHR is a good investment into helping our industry. CTAHR has proven to be a valuable support for our industry.

Thank you for taking the time to read this correspondence and if you have any questions I can be reached at [neo@greenpointnursery.com](mailto:neo@greenpointnursery.com) or 808 959 3535 ext 2615.

Sincerely,

Thong Teng Neo  
President  
Hawaii Tropical Flower Council



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

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**SUPPORT FOR HB1968 HD1 - RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII  
COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES COOPERATIVE  
EXTENSION SERVICE.**

Aloha,

My name is Jon Tanouye and I am the current President of the Orchid Growers of Hawaii (OGOH).

We would like to express our **support** for HB1968HD1 Relating to the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources Cooperative Extension Service.

We consider the services that CTAHR provides to be essential to the support of our industry and believe that funding for full-time equivalent ornamental plant extension agent positions is important.

If you have any other questions you may contact me to discuss and I can be reached by phone at 808-959-3535 or via email at [jon@greenpointnursery.com](mailto:jon@greenpointnursery.com).

Sincerely,

Jonathan Tanouye  
President  
Orchid Growers of Hawaii (OGOH)



Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii  
PO Box 632  
Kailua-Kona, HI 96745

January 29, 2018

In Support of House Bill 1968

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COLLEGE AND TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES  
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

Dear Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair

In the last decade CTAHR has seen a loss of 50% of its Extension Agents. Presently, Extension Agents serve the landscape industry on all the Hawaii islands except Oahu. The Board of Directors of the Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii (LICH) strongly urges you to schedule HB 482 for a hearing before the HED Committee.

LICH administers educational and other programs that have a significant impact on the environment, public health, and safety of all the people living on Oahu. The following are some of the ways LICH is accomplishing these goals. This demonstrates the ever-increasing need for an ornamental plant Extension Agent to assist us to be even more effective:

- A pesticide committee is beginning in 2018 to develop a draft program for **training, testing and recording for pesticide applicators** who commercially apply non-restricted use pesticides. Hawaii is the only US state that does not require that anyone who is applying pesticides commercially be state certified.
- The **Landscape Industry Certified Technician (LICT) program** trains and tests up to sixty landscapers on Oahu each year. Education consists of 10 three-hour classes with some hands-on components and is an approved Department of Labor, Workforce Development Division, Employment and Training Fund vendor.
- LICH has published *LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION CONSERVATION Best Management Practices*. **Water Conservation** will be an important issue going forward; an Extension Agent is needed to do on-site training and evaluation for nurseries and other entities that require water use to be productive.
- **Sustainable landscaping**. Landscape maintenance and installation without the use of chemical fertilizers or pesticides is the call of the future. The industry will need help getting educational programs in place that can meet this need.
- **Bio Security / Control of Invasive Species**. There is a critical need for an extension agent to work with landscapers on the detection and control of invasive species. An extension agent will be a valuable liaison between the researchers and teachers at the college and also between landscapers and nurseries across Oahu.

Thank you for helping us to see HB 1968 become a reality this legislative session.

Sincerely,

Garrett Webb

LICH Executive Director

**HB-1968-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 2:24:01 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 12:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Matt	Performance Landscapes	Support	No

Comments:

Performance Landscapes supports this bill.

We have been in business for 15 years and have over 100 employees. Yet we are a small part of the landscape industry on Oahu. Landscape workers are on the front lines of identifying invasive species and pesticide applications, yet there is no longer an extension agent available to guide us. We want to protect the state from spread of invasives like fire ants, and coqui frogs. We need to train our workers to avoid mishandling pesticides for their safety, the general public's safety, and to protect our ecosystem.

Please bring back the extension agent for our industry, especially for Oahu where the majority of the population resides.

Mahalo

**HB-1968-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 12:16:22 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 12:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-1968-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2018 10:50:25 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 12:30:00 PM

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

Comments:





# Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

**COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 22, 2018  
12:30 P.M.  
Conference Room 308  
State Capitol  
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**HB1968 HD1** - RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES COOPERATIVE 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.

The Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association (HFNA) strongly **SUPPORTS** House **Bill 1968 HD1**

The Hawaii Floriculture and Ornamental Industry understands the importance of the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (UH CTAHR) for our Agriculture Industry. We find it critical for the support of our members to have full-time ornamental plant extension agents available.

We thank you for your consideration of HB1968 HD1. 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

## FIN-Jo

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**From:** Martha Peterson <petersona003@hawaii.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 21, 2018 10:46 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT HB 1968, HD 1.

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support HB 1968 HD 1, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources cooperative extension service for four full-time ornamental plant extension agents.

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. CTAHR has helped develop and improve agricultural technologies pertinent to Hawaii's farmers. 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.

Hawaii's ornamental plant production exceeds \$70 million annually in wholesale value, and contributes greatly to Hawaii's image as a lush tropical paradise. Oahu produces a significant portion of this value, but has not had a dedicated ornamental plant extension agent since the end of 2009. The recent emergence of new diseases that threaten ornamental ginger production adds to the need for assistance in this field.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Mahalo!

## FIN-Jo

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**From:** Frederick Mencher <fmencher@hawaii.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 21, 2018 10:07 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT HB 1968, HD 1.

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support HB 1968 HD 1, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources cooperative extension service for four full-time ornamental plant extension agents.

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Mahalo!

## FIN-Jo

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**From:** Karol Haraguchi <karol@haraguchiricemill.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 21, 2018 9:54 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT HB 1968, HD 1.

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support HB 1968 HD 1, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources cooperative extension service for four full-time ornamental plant extension agents.

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Mahalo!

## FIN-Jo

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**From:** Kylie Matsuda-Lum <kylie@kahukufarms.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 21, 2018 9:51 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT HB 1968, HD 1.

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee,

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Mahalo!

## FIN-Jo

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**From:** ROGER ROBELLO <rrobello@hcsugar.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 21, 2018 9:28 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT HB 1968, HD 1.

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee,

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Mahalo!

## FIN-Jo

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**From:** Richard Ogoshi <ogoshi@hawaiiantel.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 21, 2018 9:06 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT HB 1968, HD 1.

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee,

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Mahalo!

## FIN-Jo

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**From:** Gregory Williams <koloa@hawaiiantel.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 21, 2018 8:55 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT HB 1968, HD 1.

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee,

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Mahalo!



## FIN-Jo

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**From:** William Askew <GregAskew2@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 21, 2018 8:52 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT HB 1968, HD 1.

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support HB 1968 HD 1, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources cooperative extension service for four full-time ornamental plant extension agents.

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. CTAHR has helped develop and improve agricultural technologies pertinent to Hawaii's farmers. 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.

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**From:** Annette Lee <acefarm@hawaii.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 21, 2018 8:52 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT HB 1968, HD 1.

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## FIN-Jo

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**From:** Alvin Tsuruda <waihale@hawaiiintel.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 21, 2018 8:49 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT HB 1968, HD 1.

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**From:** Lelan Nishek <lelan@kauainursery.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 21, 2018 8:26 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT HB 1968, HD 1.

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## FIN-Jo

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**From:** Mark Phillipson <reelrelaxed@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 21, 2018 8:40 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT HB 1968, HD 1.

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## FIN-Jo

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**From:** Randy Cabral <kaiwiki.1970@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 21, 2018 8:09 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT HB 1968, HD 1.

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## FIN-Jo

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**From:** Robert Paull <robertepaull@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 21, 2018 7:57 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT HB 1968, HD 1.

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I strongly support HB 1968 HD 1, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources cooperative extension service for four full-time ornamental plant extension agents.

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Hawaii's ornamental plant production exceeds \$70 million annually in wholesale value, and contributes greatly to Hawaii's image as a lush tropical paradise. Oahu produces a significant portion of this value, but has not had a dedicated ornamental plant extension agent since the end of 2009. The recent emergence of new diseases that threaten ornamental ginger production adds to the need for assistance in this field.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Mahalo!

## FIN-Jo

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**From:** Phil Becker <aikaneplantation@hawaii.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 21, 2018 7:51 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT HB 1968, HD 1.

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support HB 1968 HD 1, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources cooperative extension service for four full-time ornamental plant extension agents.

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. CTAHR has helped develop and improve agricultural technologies pertinent to Hawaii's farmers. 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.

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Mahalo!



## FIN-Jo

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**From:** Stacie Sasagawa <Ssasagawa@hawaii.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 21, 2018 7:48 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT HB 1968, HD 1.

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support HB 1968 HD 1, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources cooperative extension service for four full-time ornamental plant extension agents.

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. CTAHR has helped develop and improve agricultural technologies pertinent to Hawaii's farmers. 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.

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Mahalo!

## FIN-Jo

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**From:** Don Gerbig <drigmaui@hawaii.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 21, 2018 11:59 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT HB 1968, HD 1.

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support HB 1968 HD 1, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources cooperative extension service for four full-time ornamental plant extension agents.

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. CTAHR has helped develop and improve agricultural technologies pertinent to Hawaii's farmers. 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.

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Mahalo!

**From:** [Joni Kamiya](#)  
**To:** [FINTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT HB 1968, HD 1.  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 21, 2018 12:14:01 PM

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Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support HB 1968 HD 1, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources cooperative extension service for four full-time ornamental plant extension agents.

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. CTAHR has helped develop and improve agricultural technologies pertinent to Hawaii's farmers. 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.

Hawaii's ornamental plant production exceeds \$70 million annually in wholesale value, and contributes greatly to Hawaii's image as a lush tropical paradise. Oahu produces a significant portion of this value, but has not had a dedicated ornamental plant extension agent since the end of 2009. The recent emergence of new diseases that threaten ornamental ginger production adds to the need for assistance in this field.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Mahalo!

**From:** [ka"ohi Mokuhali"i](#)  
**To:** [FINTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT HB 1968, HD 1.  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 21, 2018 12:05:34 PM

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Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support HB 1968 HD 1, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources cooperative extension service for four full-time ornamental plant extension agents.

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. CTAHR has helped develop and improve agricultural technologies pertinent to Hawaii's farmers. 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.

Hawaii's ornamental plant production exceeds \$70 million annually in wholesale value, and contributes greatly to Hawaii's image as a lush tropical paradise. Oahu produces a significant portion of this value, but has not had a dedicated ornamental plant extension agent since the end of 2009. The recent emergence of new diseases that threaten ornamental ginger production adds to the need for assistance in this field.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Mahalo!

**HB-1968-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 12:25:32 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 12:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hawaii's landscape industry is a large industry of local businesses with an economic impact exceeding \$520 million annually and full time employment of over 11,000 landscape professionals. An extension agent would be critical for the educational and other programs that will have a significant impact on the environment, public health, and safety of all the people living on Oahu.

**HB-1968-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 12:40:50 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 12:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Committee,

As a farmers market vendor at a longstanding local farmers market, the availability of tropical flowers has significantly declined from small farmers due to impact of viruses plaguing the tropical flower industry. While the farmers markets reflect a smaller segment of the overall market - the impact hits local residents hard particularly those that visit family gravesites on a weekly and sometimes daily basis and are constantly looking for moderately priced fresh tropical flowers. I hear it weekly from customers who are always seeking tropical cut flowers. While some farmers would like to continue selling ornamentals at small family farmers markets, it is unfortunate that due to viruses and less extension agents being afforded the ability to focus on this area of the market - farmers are getting discouraged with continuing in this area of agriculture. Please support HB 1968 to allow more resources to be dedicated with ensuring the ornamental markets have sufficient research available to ward off pests that continue to plague this segment of the agricultural industry.

This measure has been one of priority for the East Oahu County Farm Bureau - whose bulk of its members have farms in East Oahu - where many grow tropical flowers and ornamentals.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Shannon Alivado

**HB-1968-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 10:13:13 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 12:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support funding for the four CTAHR extension agents to focus on ornamental plants and horticulture. We have seen reductions in extension agents across the state, yet they provide much needed research, education, and direct outreach to our agriculture and horticulture community. Providing these positions to support one of our biggest and most successful areas of agriculture in the state is very important and much needed.

**From:** [David Schell](#)  
**To:** [FINTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT HB 1968, HD 1.  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 21, 2018 1:26:11 PM

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Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support HB 1968 HD 1, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources cooperative extension service for four full-time ornamental plant extension agents.

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Mahalo!





**From:** [Wayne Shizuru](#)  
**To:** [FINTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT HB 1968, HD 1.  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 21, 2018 3:05:22 PM

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Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support HB 1968 HD 1, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources cooperative extension service for four full-time ornamental plant extension agents.

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. CTAHR has helped develop and improve agricultural technologies pertinent to Hawaii's farmers. 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.

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Mahalo!



## Board of Directors

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TESTIMONY FROM BENNETTE MISALUCHA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**IN SUPPORT OF HB 1968, HD1  
RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COLLEGE OF TROPICAL  
AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES COOPERATIVE EXTENSION  
SERVICE**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
February 22, 2018, 12:30 p.m.  
Conference Room 308

**LATE**

Chair Luke and members of the committee:

The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association (HCIA) is a Hawaii-based non-profit organization that promotes modern agriculture to help farmers and communities succeed. Through education, collaboration, and advocacy, we work to ensure a safe and sustainable food supply, support responsible farming practices, and build a healthy state economy.

HCIA is in **support of HB 1968, HD1**, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (UH CTAHR) cooperative extension service for four full-time ornamental plant extension agents.

Farmers statewide rely on the excellent outreach and education services provided by CTAHR. The College has been instrumental in developing and improving agricultural technologies for the industry, including cover crop research and biological and cultural methods for controlling pests. They also play a key role in promoting the importance of locally grown produce and improving agricultural resources for local farmers.

It is for all these reasons that we ask that you support this important measure.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bennette Misalucha  
Executive Director, Hawaii Crop Improvement Association



**From:** [Jari Sugano](#)  
**To:** [FINTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT HB 1968, HD 1.  
**Date:** Thursday, February 22, 2018 7:48:22 AM

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Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support HB 1968 HD 1, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources cooperative extension service for four full-time ornamental plant extension agents.

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Mahalo!