



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, January 30, 2018 at 2:00 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

LATE

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

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Hashem, and members of the committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 1968, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) Cooperative Extension Service (CES) for one full-time ornamental plant Extension Agent.

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 \$500 million and 12,000 jobs), the industry has identified a need for an agent. Significant problems face the industry including new pests and diseases, water relations, and climate change. An Extension Agent, 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, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Supplemental Budget.

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

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

**JANUARY 30, 2018
2:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 309**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1968
RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COLLEGE OF TROPICAL
AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE**

Chairperson McKelvey and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1968, which appropriates funds to UH CTAHR for an ornamental plant extension agent. The Department supports this measure.

This bill recognizes that there has been a vacancy in the Cooperative Extension Service for the Hawaii's ornamental segment of the agricultural economy for over 10 years. A healthy ornamental sector provides an overall contribution to agriculture by training what are, essentially, agricultural crop production employees; creating a demand for fertilizer, media, irrigation materials and other products associated with agriculture; and complementing and contributing to the agricultural infrastructure necessary for a successful agriculture industry in Hawaii. The ornamental segment of Hawaii's agriculture provides the flowers for leis, the leaves for garnishments, and the foliage for arrangements that are commonly demanded by the visitor industry, our number one economic driver for the State of Hawaii. By funding this position we strengthen that segment of the economy of our State that provides for the support of a strong ornamental/horticultural sector.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



HB-1968

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 4:30:29 PM

Testimony for HED on 1/30/2018 2:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kevin Mulkern	Mulkern Landscaping & Nursery	Support	No

Comments:

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. Please schedule HB 482 for a hearing before the HED Committee. The Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii administers educational and other programs that have a significant impact on the environment, public health, and safety of all the people living on Oahu, and it's important to have an Extension Agent to assist. An extension agent will be a valuable asset to our industry.

Thank you for considering my request.



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e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

January 30, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

TESTIMONY ON HB 1968

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

Room 309
2:00 PM

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Hashem, 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, which appropriates funds to the UH college of tropical agriculture and human resources cooperative extension service for one full-time ornamental plant extension agent.

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.

LATE

HB-1968

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 4:27:42 PM

Testimony for HED on 1/30/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Shaheen Mulkern	Mulkern Landscaping & Nursery	Support	No

Comments:

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. Please schedule HB 482 for a hearing before the HED Committee. The Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii administers educational and other programs that have a significant impact on the environment, public health, and safety of all the people living on Oahu, and it's important to have an Extension Agent to assist. An extension agent will be a valuable asset to our industry.

Thank you for considering my request.

LATE

HB-1968

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 2:08:45 PM

Testimony for HED on 1/30/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elton Mow		Support	No

Comments:

the ornamental position is necessary to promote increased opportunities is this sector

HB-1968

Submitted on: 1/27/2018 10:02:48 AM

Testimony for HED on 1/30/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Springer Kaye	Big Island Invasive Species Committee	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this effort and can testify to the need for more training and support for the ornamental plant industry. This need includes hands-on help with, and research into, pest management, nursery biosecurity, and the development of unique home-grown varieties of ornamentals so that Hawaii can remain a strong competitor in the export--not import--of exotic tropical plants.



The House of Representatives
Committee on Higher Education
January 30, 2018
2:00 p.m., Conference Room 309
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB 1968

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Hashem, and Members of the Committee,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) **is in support of HB 1968, Relating to the UH CTAHR Cooperative Extension Service.** The aim of this measure is to provide funds for an Extension Agent focused on ornamental plants.

As the state's Land Grant University, UH CTAHR is mandated to provide cooperative agricultural (and home economic) extension to the public. Agriculture Extension Agents develop, teach, and demonstrate to the public the practical applications of research knowledge, and provide practical demonstrations of existing or improved practices or technologies in agriculture. Extension Agents are major part of every state's communication network between agencies and the public.

From a biosecurity perspective, UH CTAHR Agriculture Extension Agents are an important connection between producers of agricultural and forestry products, and state and federal agencies. Many times, Extension Agents are the first individuals consulted when new pests are encountered, and they are also the individuals that can carry pest prevention and control information back to the community. UH CTAHR Extension Forester Dr. J.B. Friday is a great example of the role that Extension plays. From his Extension work on Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death, to his research and outreach work on the best, non-invasive and native hardwood crops, Dr. Friday shows us the value of the Extension Service. The ornamental plant industry is worth tens of millions of dollars to Hawaii's economy, yet this industry has not had a designated Extension Agent for several years. We ask that you please consider supporting this bill. Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,
Christy Martin
CGAPS

LATE

HB-1968

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 6:04:40 AM
Testimony for HED on 1/30/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teresa Parsons		Support	No

Comments:



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 Angus L.K. McKelvey

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

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 12:49:22 PM

Testimony for HED on 1/30/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dale Sandlin	Hawaii Cattlemens Council	Support	No

Comments: