



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Higher Education  
Thursday, March 15, 2018 at 1:20 p.m.

By  
Nicholas Comerford  
Dean, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources  
And  
Debora Halbert  
Associate 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 Kahele, Vice Chair Kim, and members of the Senate Committee on Higher  
Education:

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 HD1, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Supplemental Budget Request.

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor

DOUGLAS S. CHIN  
Lt. Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

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

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION**

**MARCH 15, 2018  
1:20 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1968 HD1  
RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COLLEGE OF TROPICAL  
AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE**

Chairperson Kahele and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1968 HD1, which appropriates funds to UH CTAHR for four ornamental plant extension agents. 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.





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)

March 15, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

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

Room 224  
1:20 PM

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kim, 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, HD1**, which appropriates funds to the UH college of tropical agriculture and human resources cooperative extension service for four 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.

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

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION  
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair  
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 15, 2018  
1:20 P.M.  
Conference Room 224  
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 foliage, 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 foliage, 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

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION  
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair  
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 15, 2018  
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Conference Room 224  
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 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)



# Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

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

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION  
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair  
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 15, 2018  
1:20 P.M.  
Conference Room 224  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

**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



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

March 12, 2018

In Support of House Bill 1968

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

Dear Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair of the Senate Committee on Higher Education

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



The Senate  
Committee on Higher Education  
March 15, 2018  
1:20 p.m., Conference Room 224  
State Capitol

### **Testimony in Support of HB 1968 HD1**

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kim, and Members of the Committee,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) **is in support of HB 1968 HD1, Relating to the UH CTAHR Cooperative Extension Service.** The aim of this measure is to provide funds for four Extension Agents 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 demonstrations of existing or improved practices or technologies in agriculture. In addition, 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 the public, 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 producers and public. 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. The Hawai'i Interagency Biosecurity Plan highlights the need for additional Extension Agents for a variety of agricultural sectors, and we ask that you please consider supporting this bill. Mahalo!

Aloha,  
Christy Martin  
CGAPS





Cindy Goldstein, PhD  
Ag Matters, LLC  
98-814 C Kaonohi St  
Aiea, HI 96701

**HB 1968, H.D.1**  
**RELATING TO FUNDING UH CTAHR COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE**

Senate Committee on Higher Education  
Thursday, March 15, 2018, 1:20 p.m. Conference Room 224

Aloha Chair Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair Senator Donna Mercado Kim, and  
Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education,

Position: **Strong support HB 1968, H.D.1**

As a board member of the Hawaii Farm Bureau and as an agricultural consultant in Hawaii, I am in support of this funding. With the steady reduction in the number of employees at the University of Hawaii experiment stations across the state and reduction in number of cooperative extension agents, there is a need to provide funding for critical positions that support Hawaii's farming and horticulture businesses.

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.

**HB-1968-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 6:12:46 AM

Testimony for HRE on 3/15/2018 1:20:00 PM

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

Comments:

**Performance Landscapes and our 105 employees strongly supports HB 1968.**

Please commit the funds to re-instate the long overdue Ag. Extension position. Our industry needs support for:

- Responsible chemical and pesticide training and handling.
- Advice on combating invasive species.
- Maintaining the important tropical landscapes Hawaii's tourism industry relies on.
- Training our workers to be safe and injury free

Thank you. Matt Lyum

**HB-1968-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 9:49:34 AM

Testimony for HRE on 3/15/2018 1:20:00 PM

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

Comments:

**HB-1968-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 3:31:08 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/15/2018 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
BENNETTE MISALUCHA	Testifying for Hawaii Crop Improvement Association	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-1968-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 12:34:13 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/15/2018 1:20:00 PM

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

Comments:

**Testimony**

**Provided to the Senate Committee on Higher Education**

**Thursday, March 14, 2018**

**at 1:20 p.m.**

**By Boyd Ready, Director Emeritus,**

**Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii**

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

Dear Senator Kahele, Chair, and Senator Kim, Vice-Chair:

The landscape and nursery industries comprise activities of agriculture, tourism, and every resident's quality of life. The wholesale value of foliage products is large. The entire industry, however, comprising landscape architecture, arborists and tree services, resort, condominium, commercial and government grounds care, golf courses, new landscape construction, erosion control, and home gardening activity, amounts to an economic factor larger than all of diversified agriculture.

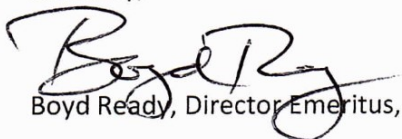
Employment for Hawaii's workforce is in the range of 12,000 to 15,000 jobs, at all skill levels. Pathways into employment are not a focus of the DOE – only 2 of 42 high schools have any sort of vocational preparation for this large and important industry. Self-help training, certification, and environmental improvement activities have been the hallmark of our statewide landscape council for decades.

Environmental awareness in Hawaii's landscape industry is a highlight. At a recent Conservation Conference the Emeritus Forester of the US Forest Service commended our industry as unique in the United States – elsewhere landscape contractors are often resistant or uncooperative with efforts to encourage native species and environmental care – here in Hawaii these are a focus. Bringing threatened native species into the landscape trade is a key component of their future survival.

Despite the preconception that landscapers are unskilled, on the contrary, much of what we do requires training, research, and university support. The UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources has long been a cooperative partner in our efforts, but they are substantially hindered by personnel cutbacks.

I urge you to support additional Ag Extension agents for the College as they are sorely needed to support this large and important industry.

Sincerely,



Boyd Ready, Director Emeritus,

Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii

c/o 59-661 Alapio Rd., Haleiwa HI 9671

**From:** [Alber Medeiros Jr.](#)  
**To:** [HRE Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT HB 1968, HD 1.  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2018 8:10:42 PM

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Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kim 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:** [Alvin Tsuruda](#)  
**To:** [HRE Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT HB 1968, HD 1.  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2018 10:32:41 AM

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Mahalo!

**From:** [Blake Rabe](#)  
**To:** [HRE Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT HB 1968, HD 1.  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2018 9:30:10 AM

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Mahalo!

**From:** [Bonnie Brayton](#)  
**To:** [HRE Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT HB 1968, HD 1.  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2018 10:38:32 AM

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Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kim 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:** [C.Kawabata](#)  
**To:** [HRE Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT HB 1968, HD 1.  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2018 8:41:31 PM

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Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kim and Members of the Committee,

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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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Mahalo!

**From:** [David Makaiwi](#)  
**To:** [HRE Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT HB 1968, HD 1.  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2018 1:55:08 PM

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Mahalo!

**From:** [David Rietow](#)  
**To:** [HRE Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT HB 1968, HD 1.  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2018 12:36:26 PM

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Mahalo!

**From:** [Gregory Williams](#)  
**To:** [HRE Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT HB 1968, HD 1.  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2018 8:20:46 AM

---

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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.

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:** [Frederick Mencher](#)  
**To:** [HRE Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT HB 1968, HD 1.  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2018 9:25:48 AM

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Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kim 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:** [John Gordines](#)  
**To:** [HRE Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT HB 1968, HD 1.  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2018 9:24:44 AM

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Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kim 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:** [James Tavares](#)  
**To:** [HRE Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT HB 1968, HD 1.  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2018 1:37:34 PM

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Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kim 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:** [Jari Sugano](#)  
**To:** [HRE Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT HB 1968, HD 1.  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2018 9:42:39 AM

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Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kim 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:** [Jason T Okuhama](#)  
**To:** [HRE Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT HB 1968, HD 1.  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2018 10:29:03 AM

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Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kim 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:** [Joni Kamiya](#)  
**To:** [HRE Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT HB 1968, HD 1.  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2018 9:39:35 PM

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Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kim 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:** [Kylie Matsuda-Lum](#)  
**To:** [HRE Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT HB 1968, HD 1.  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2018 4:46:43 PM

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Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kim 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:** [Laila Jayyousi](#)  
**To:** [HRE Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT HB 1968, HD 1.  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2018 2:01:22 PM

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Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kim 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:** [Vernon Kawahara](#)  
**To:** [HRE Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT HB 1968, HD 1.  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2018 11:16:39 AM

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Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kim 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:** [Laurie Ho](#)  
**To:** [HRE Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT HB 1968, HD 1.  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2018 11:09:18 AM

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Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kim 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:** [Michael Blietz](#)  
**To:** [HRE Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT HB 1968, HD 1.  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2018 9:43:39 AM

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Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kim 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:** [Owen OCallaghan](#)  
**To:** [HRE Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT HB 1968, HD 1.  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2018 9:29:26 AM

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Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kim 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:** [patrick.mcgrath](#)  
**To:** [HRE Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT HB 1968, HD 1.  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2018 10:35:53 AM

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Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kim 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:** [Phil Becker](#)  
**To:** [HRE Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT HB 1968, HD 1.  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2018 12:40:39 PM

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Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kim 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:** [Randy Cabral](#)  
**To:** [HRE Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT HB 1968, HD 1.  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2018 9:45:14 AM

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Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kim 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:** [Richard Ogoshi](#)  
**To:** [HRE Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT HB 1968, HD 1.  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2018 8:18:57 AM

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Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kim 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:** [Robert Paull](#)  
**To:** [HRE Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT HB 1968, HD 1.  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2018 10:42:30 AM

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Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kim and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support HB 1968 HD 1, that 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:** [Rodney & Karol Haraguchi](#)  
**To:** [HRE Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT HB 1968, HD 1.  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2018 10:51:53 AM

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Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kim 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:** [scot willson](#)  
**To:** [HRE Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT HB 1968, HD 1.  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2018 8:42:46 AM

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Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kim 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!