

LATE

From: [Gary Greive](#)
To: [HRE Testimony](#)
Subject: I SUPPORT HB 1968, HD 1.
Date: Wednesday, March 14, 2018 9:34:41 PM

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!

LATE

From: [Iris Shimabukuro](#)
To: [HRE Testimony](#)
Subject: I SUPPORT HB 1968, HD 1.
Date: Wednesday, March 14, 2018 11:35:40 AM

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