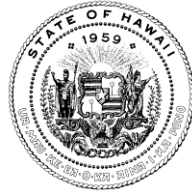


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS S. CHIN  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



LEONARD HOSHIGO  
DIRECTOR

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

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

[www.labor.hawaii.gov](http://www.labor.hawaii.gov)  
Phone: (808) 586-8844 / Fax: (808) 586-9099  
Email: [dlir.director@hawaii.gov](mailto:dlir.director@hawaii.gov)

April 3, 2018

To: The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair;  
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair; and  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Date: Tuesday, April 3, 2018  
Time: 10:00 a.m.  
Place: Conference Room 211, State Capitol

From: Leonard Hoshijo, Director  
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

**Re: H.B. No. 2115 HD1 SD1 Relating to Agriculture**

**I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

Similarly to companion SB2563 SD1 HD1, HB2115 HD1 SD1 proposes to appropriate funds to continue the work of the agriculture workforce development pipeline initiative to conduct training on all islands for teachers, school administrators, and students in agriculture self-sufficiency.

The department supports this measure if it does not affect the priorities identified in the Governor's Supplemental Budget request. ~~However, the department does have a concern with language added in SD1 to have the department submit an annual report regarding the effectiveness of the agriculture workforce development pipeline initiative for an indefinite period of time.~~

**II. CURRENT LAW**

Act 229 (SLH, 2016, §371-21) initiated the effort to provide agriculture self-sufficiency training to Hawaii's public schools (attached). The Hawaii Agriculture Workforce Advisory Board recommended accomplishing the goals of Act 229 through three (3) specific activities:

1. A two-week training program for high school teachers using Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education (CASE) Institute hosted by University

of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) in close collaboration with State Department of Education (DOE);

2. Purchase of supplies and small lab equipment for the teachers to carry out the CASE curriculum in their classrooms; and
3. A two-day Future Farmers of America (FFA) workshop for its teacher-advisors in Natural Sciences.

**CASE teacher training.** CTAHR, in partnership with DOE, hosted the CASE training at their UH Manoa campus in June 2017. CASE curriculum is widely known among agricultural science teachers as a high-quality, standardized curriculum, designed for fundamentals as well as more advanced training. This training was intended to give teachers more tools and curriculum options for teaching agricultural sciences.

The program provided thirteen Hawaii high school teachers, including one from Kauai High School and one from Konawaena High School, with the foundation and resources to introduce students to a range of agricultural opportunities and pathways of study. All teachers at the end of the institute were positive about the class and planned to use the CASE curriculum in their classrooms for school year 2017-2018.

**Supplies for Classrooms.** DOE allocated funds for classroom supplies to eight of the high schools whose teachers attended the training. These schools purchased agricultural science supplies and small lab equipment so that their teachers could fully implement the CASE curriculum.

**FFA Workshop for Teacher-Advisors.** DOE conducted a two-day workshop (July 27 and July 28, 2017) at the Monsanto facilities in Kunia for current, new or prospective FFA Advisors currently teaching in the Natural Resources Career Pathway. Ten teachers from eight schools participated. Attendees learned about the value of FFA members in promoting leadership and agricultural education; received training on managing FFA chapters; and reviewed and discussed Hawaii Agricultural Education and FFA Strategic Plans.

#### **Benefits.**

An unexpected benefit of the funding provided by the Legislature has been the wide scope of teachers attending the CASE training with 65% of attendees from fields other than agriculture. Their newly growing interest in agricultural sciences should increase the number of students exposed to agricultural science.

A goal of the of the State Legislature through Act 229 and Act 099 (SLH, 2013) (which established the Hawaii Agriculture Workforce Advisory Board) is to expand the pipeline of agricultural workers to address pending shortages in Hawaii's

agricultural workforce. One of the objectives was to reverse the drastically declining membership in Hawaii FFA chapters in public secondary schools.

Through support for FFA members and teachers via workshops each year for the past three years, this objective was accomplished: ***from a low of 126 members and 10 participating high schools in 2014, there was a remarkable increase to 311 members and 16 high schools in 2016, an increase of 147% and 60% respectively.***

These outcomes demonstrate how limited funding provided by the Legislature to the Department over the past few years has generated a disproportionately high amount of interest and excitement about agriculture among students and teachers in the State's public schools.

### **III. COMMENTS ON THE HOUSE BILL**

To capitalize on the momentum generated by Act 229, the department supports the measure to provide funding for teacher training to continue and expand the efforts of creating a pipeline of agricultural science workers for Hawaii's agricultural self-sufficiency, provided it does not conflict with the Governor's budget priorities.

~~However, the department does have a concern with language added in SD1 to have the department submit an annual report regarding the effectiveness of the agriculture workforce development pipeline initiative for an indefinite period of time.~~

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor

DOUGLAS S. CHIN  
Lt. Governor



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

SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS**

**APRIL 3, 2018  
10:00 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 211**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2115 HD1 SD1  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2115 HD1 SD1. This bill provides funding for the continued work of the K-12 agriculture workforce development pipeline initiative in the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) to conduct trainings for teachers and school administrators in agricultural self-sufficiency on all islands. The Department supports this bill but would defer to the DLIR.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.





March 28, 2018

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

**Comments in Support of HB 2115, H.D. 1, S.D. 1 Relating to Agriculture (Appropriates Funds to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations for the K-12 Agriculture Workforce Development Pipeline Initiative; requires annual reporting on the effectiveness of the Initiative.)**

**Tuesday, April 3, 2018, 10:00 a.m., in Conference Room 211**

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers and a utility company. LURF's mission is to advocate for reasonable, rational and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural and cultural resources, and public health and safety.

LURF appreciates the opportunity to express its **support of HB 2115, H.D. 1, S.D. 1** and of the various agricultural stakeholder groups who defend the goals of viable agricultural operations and the conservation and protection of agriculture, including important agricultural lands (IAL) in Hawaii. The bill conveys the need for collaboration amongst diverse sectors of the community - business, government, educational institutions, and agricultural stakeholders - and the importance for them to work together cooperatively to improve the economic viability of the State's agricultural industry.

**HB 2115, H.D. 1, S.D. 1.** The purpose of this bill is to continue the work of the agriculture workforce development pipeline initiative (the "Initiative") to conduct training in agricultural self-sufficiency on all islands for teachers and school administrators, and students.

**LURF's Position.** LURF believes that the proposed appropriation of general revenues for the operations of the Initiative is consistent with the underlying intent and objectives of the IAL laws (Hawaii Revised Statutes [HRS], Sections 205-41 to 52), which were enacted to fulfill the mandate in Article XI, Section 3 of the Hawaii State Constitution, "to conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, increase agricultural self-sufficiency and assure the availability of agriculturally suitable lands." As noted in HRS Section 205-41, the intent of Act 183 (2005) was to develop agricultural incentive programs to promote agricultural viability, sustained growth of the agricultural industry, and the long-term use and protection of important agricultural lands for agricultural use.

Passage of the long-awaited IAL legislation would be pointless without implementation of these programs, incentives and inducements which require the cooperation and support of agricultural, business, and educational organizations, as well as government agencies, which this bill is intended to cultivate and promote.

LURF members include private property owners, farmers and ranchers who own, maintain, and engage in agricultural enterprises, and who consider programs such as this Initiative significant to the continued conduct of their operations and to help sustain and preserve their businesses into the future. Regrettably, interest in agriculture continues to decline due to misguided assumptions of the trade as entailing hard work for low pay, and requiring little, if any appreciable skills.

LURF believes efforts like the Initiative and the appropriation of funds for its operation would greatly assist in the perpetuation of the agricultural industry in this State by identifying workforce needs; assisting the industry with training to help farmers and ranchers comply with onerous regulatory requirements; providing knowledge and inspiring interest in agriculture; as well as educating youth about the importance of increasing Hawaii's long-term resilience and sustainability.

As the establishment of the Initiative significantly helps to promote economically viable agriculture and food self-sufficiency in Hawaii, LURF is in **support of HB 2115, H.D. 1, S.D. 1.**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of 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)

April 3, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**TESTIMONY ON HB 2115, HD1, SD1**  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 211  
10:00 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, 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 supports HB 2115, HD1, SD1**, which appropriates funds to the department of labor and industrial relations for the K-12 agriculture workforce development pipeline initiative.

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

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

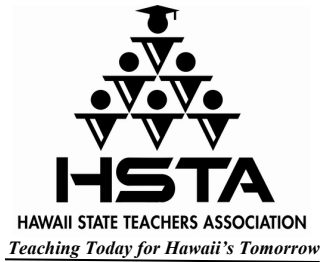
In 2013, the Hawaii State Legislature saw fit to establish the Agriculture Workforce Advisory Board via HB 749 of that year. This Board convenes, in part, to execute the recommendations of Hawaii Agriculture Skill Panel Report. This board established a program by which educators and school administrators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

continue to implement strategies yielding favorable outcomes for the state's economy, particularly the agricultural sector.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our opinion on this important matter.





1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819  
Tel: (808) 833-2711 ♦ Fax: (808) 839-7106 ♦ Web: www.hsta.org

Corey Rosenlee  
President  
Justin Hughey  
Vice President  
Amy Perruso  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Wilbert Holck  
Executive Director

## TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAY AND MEANS

RE: HB 2115 HD1 SD1- RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 2018

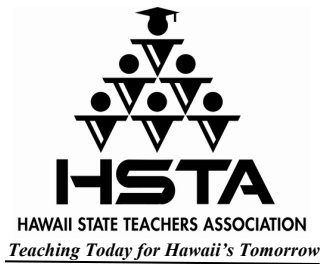
COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports HB 2115 HD1 SD1**, relating to agriculture.

We need to restore the balance in our public educational system in Hawaii. Hawaii's Career and Technical Education programs need to be expanded to provide greater opportunity to prepare young people to design their own futures. The purpose of this Act is to continue the work of the agriculture workforce development pipeline initiative to conduct training on all islands for teachers and school administrators, and students in agricultural self-sufficiency. This act would help the continuation of providing teachers in the DOE with training from experts in the agricultural field would help them understand not only how the agriculture workforce needs have changed over time, but also how to incorporate sustainability in agriculture that is in high demand in Hawaii. According to the Hawaii Agriculture Skill Panel Report from the Workforce Development Council, the average age of Hawaii's commercial farmers is over 60 years old. Interest in agriculture is waning in our youth and this is worrisome to the industry and to the economy and self-sustainability of our state.

There is a common misconception that farming is a low-paying, low-skilled trade. Our youth need to understand that there are a variety of careers within the agricultural industry that need to be filled. They need more workers that are not only technical in nature, but also those who will help to solve the problems listed in the report such as developing new technology and developing ideas for innovation



1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819  
Tel: (808) 833-2711 ♦ Fax: (808) 839-7106 ♦ Web: [www.hsta.org](http://www.hsta.org)

**Corey Rosenlee**  
President

**Justin Hughey**  
Vice President

**Amy Perruso**  
Secretary-Treasurer

**Wilbert Holck**  
Executive Director

that are critical components to the growth and expansion of the agricultural industry in Hawaii, especially in the areas of sustainability. The agricultural industry also needs workers in business, marketing, and management to refine and streamline production and distribution, along with workers to guide the industry in using sustainable practices, Organic farming, Soil building, and Natural Farming.

Passage of this bill would help provide teachers with the knowledge they need to incorporate agricultural career paths into their curriculum using school gardens, and farm to table programs with their students.

Hawaii, like most states, is working toward the goal of getting their students 'college-and career-ready,' but CTE experts are concerned that what we mean by 'career-ready' is not always clear, and the supply of quality career-technical education programs has not kept pace with demand. Students must have several options available to them in order to explore a variety of career options, one of them being in agriculture. This bill supports these efforts.

According to a national study, *The Shocking Truth About The Skills Gap* (2015), only 25 percent of polled job seekers reported receiving career path in high school, and 41 percent said they wished they had received more guidance.

Because a robust education involves developing all aspects of learning for our ever-changing world including the changes in agriculture, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.

**HB-2115-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/30/2018 10:51:16 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <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-2115-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2018 12:16:29 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2018 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By  | Organization  | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------|---|--------------------|--------------------|
| Melodie Aduja | Testifying for Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i | Support            | No                 |

Comments:

To the Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair; the Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

Good morning. My name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on **HB2115 HD1 SD1**, relating to Agriculture; K-12 Agriculture Workforce Development Pipeline Initiative and an appropriation.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of **HB2115 HD1 SD1** and supports its passage.

**HB2115 HD1 SD1**, is in alignment with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it appropriates funds to the department of labor and industrial relations for the K-12 agriculture workforce development pipeline initiative; and requires annual reporting on the effectiveness of the initiative, effective 1/1/2050.

Specifically, the DPH Platform states that "[w]e believe a major role of education is to develop critical and creative thinkers who are knowledgeable about issues and able to evaluate and solve real-world problems. The curriculum also should emphasize cultural learning, the arts, career and trade skills, and physical education so that we may preserve our health and rich cultural history. A variety of learning strategies should be used, including group projects, cooperative learning, discussion, games and technological innovations." (Platform of the DPH, P. 7, Lines 378-380 (2016)).

Given that **HB2115 HD1 SD1** appropriates funds to the department of labor and industrial relations for the K-12 agriculture workforce development pipeline initiative; and requires annual reporting on the effectiveness of the initiative, effective 1/1/2050, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC on Legislative Priorities

Email: [legislativepriorities@gmail.com](mailto:legislativepriorities@gmail.com), Text/Tel.: (808) 258-8889

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support HB 2115 HD1, SD1, which establishes a K-12 Agriculture Workforce Development Pipeline Initiative in DLIR to conduct training for students, teachers and school administrators in agricultural self-sufficiency.

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

We ask for your support to continue funding the operations of the K-12 Agriculture Workforce Development Pipeline Initiative

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Mahalo!

|                |                          |                   |
|----------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Phil Becker    | Rodney & Karol Haraguchi | Luly Unemori      |
| Annette Lee    | Susan Mulkern            | Clyde Fukuyama    |
| Robert Paull   | Mark Phillipson          | Alvin Tsuruda     |
| Jari Sugano    | Larry Jefts              | Randy Cabral      |
| David Schell   | John Gordines            | Luana Beck        |
| Kenneth Ibara  | Joni Kamiya              | Frederick Mencher |
| Melvin Matsuda | Richard Ogoshi           | Carolyn Lum       |
|                |                          |                   |