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GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS S. CHIN  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



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

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February 2, 2018

To: The Honorable Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair;  
The Honorable Daniel Holt, Vice Chair; and  
Members of the House Committee on Labor and Public Employment

Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018  
Time: 10:30 a.m.  
Place: Conference Room 309, State Capitol

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

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

**I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

HB2115 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.

**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.



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**Date:** 02/06/2018  
**Time:** 10:30 AM  
**Location:** 309  
**Committee:** House Labor & Public  
Employment

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** HB 2115 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

**Purpose of Bill:** Appropriates funds to the department of labor and industrial relations for the K-12 agriculture workforce development pipeline initiative.

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education supports HB 2115 to continue the work of the K-12 agriculture workforce development pipeline initiative to conduct training for teachers and school administrators in agricultural self-sufficiency, but defers to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations for any administrative or budgetary implementation concerns.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this measure.

The Hawaii State Department of Education seeks to advance the goals of the Strategic Plan which is focused on student success, staff success, and successful systems of support. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at [www.hawaiipublicschools.org](http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org).

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor

DOUGLAS S. CHIN  
Lt. Governor



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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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT**

**FEBRUARY 6, 2018  
10:30 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 309**

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

Chairperson Johanson and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2115. 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.



**HB-2115**

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 9:08:01 AM

Testimony for LAB on 2/6/2018 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura	Maui County Council	Support	No

Comments:

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. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$200,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the operations of the K-12 agriculture workforce development pipeline initiative.



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February 6, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

**TESTIMONY ON HB 2115**  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 309  
10:30 am

Aloha Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Holt, 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**, 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

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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.



**HB-2115**

Submitted on: 2/4/2018 9:45:59 PM

Testimony for LAB on 2/6/2018 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

**HB-2115**

Submitted on: 2/2/2018 7:42:54 AM

Testimony for LAB on 2/6/2018 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nancy Redfeather	Ka Ohana O Na Pua	Comments	No

Comments:

I would ask that the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations work with the Department of Agriculture, Farm to School Coordinator Robyn Pfahl, and the Farm to School Hui Coordinator Lydi Morgan Bernal on any projects funded through HB2115.

Mahalo, Nancy Redfeather



February 2, 2018

Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair  
Representative Daniel Holt, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

**Comments in Support of HB 2115 Relating to Agriculture (Appropriates Funds to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations for the K-12 Agriculture Workforce Development Pipeline Initiative).**

**Tuesday, February 6, 2018, 10:30 a.m., in Conference Room 309**

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** 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.** 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**.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of this measure.

**HB-2115**

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 9:28:29 AM

Testimony for LAB on 2/6/2018 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities	Support	No

Comments:

Maria Larriera

Aloha Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Holt and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support SB 2563, 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.

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