



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

Testimony of **Ford Fuchigami**  
Administrative Director, Office of the Governor

Before the  
**House Committee on Finance**  
February 28, 2018  
11:00 a.m., Conference Room 308

In consideration of  
**House Bill No. 2671 HD1**  
**RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments supporting the intent for **House Bill 2671 HD1**, provided it does not impact the priorities detailed in the Governor's Executive Budget.

This bill appropriates yet unspecified funds to the Office of the Governor, the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, the Department of Human Resources Development, and the Department of Agriculture to collaboratively develop and implement solutions to assist dislocated workers and address the overall continued availability of gainful employment on the island of Molokai.

We appreciate your attention and will be available to answer your questions, should you have any at this time.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS S. CHIN  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



LEONARD HOSHIJO  
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)

February 28, 2018

To: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair;  
The Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair; and  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Date: Wednesday, February 28, 2018

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Place: Conference Room 308, State Capitol

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

**Re: H.B. No. 2671 HD1 Relating to Employment Opportunity**

HB2671 proposes to appropriate funds to the Office of the Governor, the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, the Department of Business Economic Development & Tourism, the Department of Human Resources Development, and the Department of Agriculture to collaborate in developing and implementing methods to assist dislocated workers and address the need for gainful employment on the island of Molokai. DLIR supports the intent of this measure provided it does not conflict with the Governor's budget priorities.

With the passing of this legislation and funds appropriated to the department, DLIR would provide assistance with basic educational and vocational training to better prepare affected populations on the island of Molokai for any potential job opportunities. Entrepreneurial training may be included if small business opportunities are developed in collaboration with designated agencies.



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
GOVERNOR

**LUIS P. SALAVERIA**  
DIRECTOR

**MARY ALICE EVANS**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804  
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Telephone: (808) 586-2355  
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Statement of  
**LUIS P. SALAVERIA**  
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism

before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**  
Wednesday, February 28, 2018  
11:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

in consideration of  
**HB 2671, HD1**  
**RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY.**

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee on Finance.

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) would like to offer the following comments on HB 2671, HD1, which appropriates monies to DBEDT to collaboratively work with The Office of the Governor, DLIR, DBEDT, DHRD, and DOA to assist dislocated workers and address the overall continued availability and gainful employment of the island of Molokai.

- DBEDT would be pleased to work collaboratively with our sister agencies.
- Suggested appropriated sum is not known at this time.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

**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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**FEBRUARY 28, 2018**  
**11:00 A.M.**  
**CONFERENCE ROOM 308**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2671 HD1**  
**RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2671 HD1. This bill provides funds for gainful employment on the island of Molokai due to the closure of Mycogen Seeds. The Department supports this bill provided it does not impact the Department's priorities listed in the Executive Budget.

This bill provides funding to support the 82 lost jobs on Molokai to various State Departments in an effort to support the employment opportunities for misplaced workers on the island. The Department supports the efforts to provide employment services for these displaced agricultural workers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

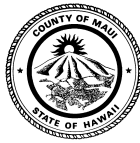


Council Chair  
Mike White

Vice-Chair  
Robert Carroll

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore  
Stacy Crivello

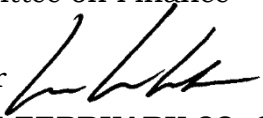
Councilmembers  
Alika Atay  
Elle Cochran  
Don S. Guzman  
Riki Hokama  
Kelly T. King  
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura



**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 S. HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
[www.MauiCounty.us](http://www.MauiCounty.us)

February 26, 2018

TO: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Mike White  
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 28, 2018; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF  
HB 2671, HD1, RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to ensure the availability of gainful employment on the island of Molokai by appropriating funds to various agencies to collaboratively develop and implement agreed upon plans to assist displaced workers and address the continued availability of gainful employment.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I **support** this measure for the following reasons:

1. Molokai continues to have one of the highest unemployment rates in the State of Hawaii. The island has suffered from tumultuous economic downturns due to the closing of the pineapple plantations, the closing of the Kaluakoi Resort, the relocation of large scale agricultural production to Oahu, the closure of Molokai Ranch, and now the impending shutdown of Mycogen Seeds. Action must be taken to prevent an additional downturn.
2. With the impending closure of Mycogen, approximately 82 displaced workers will add to the already high unemployment rate. These funds will help mitigate impacts by supporting collaboration among multiple entities to provide innovative solutions.
3. It is impractical for many Molokai residents to relocate for employment, and options for inter-island transportation are limited. This bill will assist to create opportunities for residents of the island.

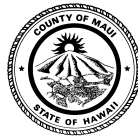
For the foregoing reasons, I strongly **support** this measure.

Council Chair  
Mike White

Vice-Chair  
Robert Carroll

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore  
Stacy Crivello

Councilmembers  
Alika Atay  
Elle Cochran  
Don S. Guzman  
Riki Hokama  
Kelly T. King  
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura



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February 26, 2018

TO: Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Stacy Helm Crivello  
Councilmember

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Stacy Helm Crivello".

DATE: Wednesday, February 28, 2018

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT OF HB 2671 H.D. 1, RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds to the Office of the Governor; the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations; the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; the Department of Human Resources Development; and the Department of Agriculture to collaboratively develop and implement solutions to assist dislocated workers and address the overall continued availability of gainful employment on the island of Molokai.

I **support** this measure for the following reasons:

1. Mycogen will be closing their Molokai operations in March affecting 82 families. This is the latest economic crisis befalling our residents over the years. First the pineapple plantations close and over the years we've endured the closure of the Sheraton Kaluakoi Resort, the loss of large scale farming that pulled up roots and moved to Oahu, then Molokai Ranch shuttered their island operations and now Mycogen.
2. When the pineapple plantations closed, the legislature responded with Act 387 SLH 1988 to provide funding for an agricultural loan program to bolster our economy by providing loans to our residents to stimulate agricultural production.
3. The various agencies of the County of Maui along with the State continue to work collaboratively to determine how best to assist our soon to be displace workers.

For the foregoing reasons, I **support** this measure.

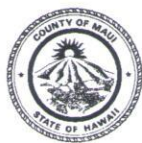
2018HB2671HD1Support-EmploymentOpportunity-FIN

Council Chair  
Mike White

Vice-Chair  
Robert Carroll

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore  
Stacy Crivello

Councilmembers  
Alika Atay  
Elle Cochran  
Don S. Guzman  
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[www.MauiCounty.us](http://www.MauiCounty.us)

February 27, 2018

TO: Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Bob Carroll *Robert Carroll*  
Councilmember, East Maui

DATE: February 27, 2018

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 28, 2018; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2671, HD1, RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to ensure the availability of gainful employment on the island of Molokai by appropriating funds to various agencies to collaboratively develop and implement agreed upon plans to assist displaced workers and address the continued availability of gainful employment.

I support this measure for the following reasons:

1. Molokai continues to have one of the highest unemployment rates in the State of Hawaii. The island has suffered from tumultuous economic downturns due to the closing of the pineapple plantations, the closing of the Kaluakoi Resort, the relocation of large scale agricultural production to Oahu, the closure of Molokai Ranch, and now the impending shutdown of Mycogen Seeds. Action must be taken to prevent an additional downturn.
2. Approximately 82 displaced workers will now have to find employment due to the impending closure of Mycogen Seeds. These funds will help mitigate impacts by supporting collaboration among multiple entities to provide innovative solutions.
3. It is impractical for many Molokai residents to relocate for employment, and options for inter-island transportation are limited. This bill will assist to create opportunities for residents of the island.

For the foregoing reasons, I **support** this measure.

**HB-2671-HD-1**

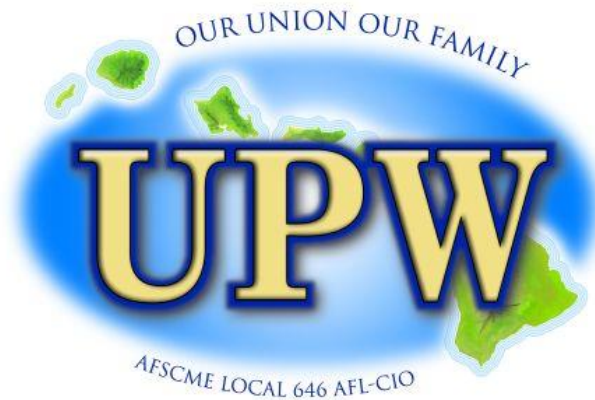
Submitted on: 2/27/2018 10:33:35 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2018 11:00:00 AM

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

Comments:





THE HAWAII STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature  
Regular Session of 2018

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Honorable Sylvia J. Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

DATE OF HEARING: Wednesday, February 28, 2018  
TIME OF HEARING: 11:00 a.m.  
PLACE OF HEARING: State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Conference Room 308

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2671 HD1 RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

By DAYTON M. NAKANELUA,  
State Director of the United Public Workers (UPW),  
AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO

My name is Dayton M. Nakanelua, State Director of the United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, AFL-CIO. The UPW is the exclusive bargaining representative for approximately 12,000 public employees, which include blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 01 and institutional, health and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and various counties. The UPW also represents about 1,500 members of the private sector.

In 2008 concerned community leaders and members of the island of Molokai with assistance from many other caring contributors plotted their vision for the beautiful island they called home. They stated what their cultural traditions are, what their hopes and their dreams are for the future of their island, and most importantly, what kind of future they want for their children. This vision provides a guide to needed state assistance that will be meaningful and sustainable. (Multidisciplinary Research on Hawaiian Well-Being. Vol 5 (2008) by Kamehameha Schools)

HB2671 HD1 appropriates funds to several state agencies to assist the people of Molokai to address the availability of gainful employment. The UPW **strongly supports** this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this bill and the people of Molokai.



## ***TESTIMONY***

*Adolph Helm, P.O. Box 391, Hoolehua, HI 96729*

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

### COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

### NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Wednesday, February 28, 2018  
TIME: 11:00 A.M.  
PLACE: Conference Room 308  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

### HB2671 HD1 (HSCR641-18) Status

Measure Title: RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY.

#### **POSITION: Support**

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Fellow Committee Members

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB2671 HD1. My family and I operate and own Anahaki LLC a small farm business on Molokai specializing in the production and sale of specialty teas. I also have a long history working in agriculture and the seed industry.

I have witnessed firsthand on Molokai the demise of pineapple, the Kaluakoi Resorts and Molokai Ranch shutting down and most recently a seed company announcing the closing of their operations. Despite the resiliency of the Molokai people to survive through this the social as well as economic impact continues in many ways to hurt this community.

I strongly support the state leading and providing the necessary resources to collaborate and to create partnership to assist displaced workers, generate workforce development opportunities and to address the overall availability of employment on Molokai. It is my hope that through this process the State and others can help improve Molokai's social and economic wellbeing as well as move the island towards a more sustainable future.

Mahalo plenty,

Adolph Helm



**HB-2671-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2018 9:46:31 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Stephanie Lauifi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Finance  
Wednesday, February 28, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.

By

Nicholas Comerford

Dean, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

And

Michael Bruno

Interim Vice Chancellor and Academic Affairs and Vice Chancellor for Research  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

**LATE**

### HB 2671 HD1 – RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the House Committee on Finance:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2671 HD1. With Mycogen leaving Moloka'i, as many as 80-90 temporary agricultural workers will lose their jobs. This further aggravates the economic plight on Moloka'i. The College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources believes that with the collaboration of the diverse agencies mentioned some retraining and creative job deliverance is possible that not only will help some portion of the soon to be unemployed, but also increase the agricultural production of the island.

While the bill is not specific as to the solutions, the immediate need for resources to support economic development is real; and retraining as well as equipment support will certainly be necessary and will not easily wait until next year. For these reasons we support the bill and are available to provide our input to determining what solutions are applicable toward the benefit of the citizens of Moloka'i.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 2671 HD1.

**LATE**

**HB-2671-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2018 10:44:26 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
charity kekauha	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



**MOLOKAI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

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February 28, 2018

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

**LATE**

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 28, 2018  
11:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 308  
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

**Support for HB 2671 HD1, RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY.**

Honorable COMMITTEE ON FINANCE Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Committee Members:

As a representative organization of the neighbor-island of Molokai with dozens of members who employ hundreds of our neighbors, friends and families, we are respectfully submitting testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB 2671 HD1.

Agriculture is the backbone of Molokai and the largest private employer is the commercial agriculture sector, which includes Mycogen Seeds. The pending ceasing of their operations is of great concern to not only our agriculture sector, but to our families who will be impacted and our greater Molokai business community.

**The loss of 82 jobs on Molokai is equivalent to losing 15,700 jobs on Oahu.** And this is compounded by the following:

Molokai traditionally suffers from the highest unemployment rate in Hawaii which is usually two to three times greater than any other island and the Statewide average, and with the loss of this many jobs it will likely quadruple or more. Additionally over 35% of our residents are on government assistance programs. Our electricity and fuel are the most costly in the State and the extra leg of shipping required to obtain our basic goods drives up the cost of living to a level that is challenging for many of our families to manage, without livable wages.

Add to this the upcoming closure of Mycogen Seed's operations and its clear that Molokai and our working families will shoulder this tremendous burden with few places to turn for help, resources and most importantly, employment.

In past company closures there were always other industries and sectors to absorb the employees and help share in the burden, but currently there are no other industries that can absorb a shift of this magnitude.

You have the ability to get in front of this. We ask that you as legislators be bold in your thinking and strong in your commitment in addressing and ending the chronic needs of our island.

Sincerely,

Robert Stephenson, President & CEO





**Board of Directors**

TESTIMONY FROM BENNETTE MISALUCHA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

President  
Alan Takemoto

**In Strong Support of HB 2671 HD1  
Relating to Employment Opportunity**

**LATE**

Vice-President  
Joshua Uyehara

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
Wednesday, 02-28-18 11:00AM  
Conference Room 308

Secretary  
Dawn Bicoy

Chair Luke and members of the committee:

Treasurer  
Laurie Yoshida

The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association (HCIA) is a Hawaii-based non-profit organization that promotes modern agriculture to help farmers and communities succeed. Through education, collaboration, and advocacy, we work to ensure a safe and sustainable food supply, support responsible farming practices, and build a healthy economy.

Directors-at-Large  
Adolf Helm  
Mark Stoutemyer  
Dan Clegg  
Gene Harrington

HCIA stands in **strong support of HB 2671 HD1**, which appropriates funds to the Office of the Governor; the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations; the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; the Department of Human Resources Development; and the Department of Agriculture to collaboratively develop and implement solutions to assist dislocated workers and address the overall continued availability of gainful employment on the island of Molokai.

President Emeritus  
Kirby Kester

Executive Director  
Bennette Misalucha

The appropriation of funds, as well as the collaborative work between the various state and county agencies, will demonstrate government’s commitment to stimulate Molokai’s economy and to find solutions that enable Molokai residents to continue to live and work on the island they call home.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Bennette Misalucha  
Executive Director, Hawaii Crop Improvement Association