



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Higher Education  
Tuesday, March 13, 2018 at 2:00 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

### SB 2075 SD1 – RELATING TO THE SUSTAINABLE AND ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Hashem, and members of the House Committee on Higher Education:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 2075 SD1.

Section 1. We fully support the idea that certified organic agriculture or some version of it is a valuable option in the diverse agricultural system portfolio that should exist in the state of Hawai'i. The three challenges identified by this legislation also outline the three legs of the stool that define a sustainable system. Field research conducted by the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa using scientific experimentation, design, and statistical analysis will provide science-based information on these farming practices that will be communicated back to the farming community via extension agents across the state.

Section 2. We support this section and provide more detail on the budget that may be helpful.

- 1) Research and Extension Assistant #1– This person will be stationed at Mānoa and will execute field and laboratory research in priority areas based on an industry needs assessment. The research assistant will be responsible for conducting replicated research trials in collaboration with Extension faculty, industry groups such as Hawai'i Farm Bureau, Kohala Group, Hawai'i Farmers Union United and responsibly communicate those results to stakeholders via field days, newsletters and online website postings.
- 2) Research and Extension Assistant #2 - This person will be stationed outside of Oahu and will have similar responsibilities to that of Assistant #1, working with local stakeholders but also with some state-wide responsibilities. The location where this person is stationed will be based on discussions with local agricultural

groups in order to leverage additional support for sustainable, organic agriculture (SOAP) activities.

- 3) Educational Assistant – This person will be responsible for extending research based information to stake holders via the SOAP website, Hanai'ai newsletter and social media channels. The educational assistant will work to help Extension faculty assemble information into useable forms of outreach material and ensure material are ADA compliant before circulation.

Costs:

Research/Extension Assistant = ~\$70,000 x 2 positions = \$140,000

Educational Assistant = ~ \$42,000 + 52% Fringe benefits \$21,840 = \$63,840

Total Personnel = \$203,840

Operations = \$60,000

Grand Total = \$263,840

We fully support SB 2075SD1 with the caveat that it does not affect, and is in addition to, the UH 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  
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**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION**

**MARCH 13, 2018  
2:00 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 309**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2075 SD1  
RELATING TO THE SUSTAINABLE AND ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PROGRAM**

Chairperson McKelvey and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2075 SD1, which provides for an appropriation to support new research and extension personnel to expand and fortify the Sustainable and Organic Agriculture Program at the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. The Department supports this measure.

The expansion of organic agriculture is the fastest growing segment in production agriculture in the U.S. Additionally, sustainable agriculture techniques and tools are important for all forms of agriculture practiced in Hawaii. Those widely adopted sustainable agricultural practices such as cover crops for managing soil stability, fertility and pest management; no till/minimum till field management; biological control of key agricultural and floricultural pests; and the identification and selection of high yielding, high value crop plant varieties and cultivars appropriate for cultivation in Hawaii, are but a few of the sustainable agricultural practices that are key to the success of all segments of agriculture in our State.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





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March 13, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

**TESTIMONY ON SB 2075, SD 1**  
RELATING TO THE SUSTAINABLE AND ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

Room 309  
2:00 PM

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kong, 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 SB 2075, SD 1**, which appropriates funds for three positions and operating expenses of the sustainable and organic agriculture program administered by the UH college of tropical agriculture and human resources.

HFB believes that Hawaii's organic sector of our agricultural industry has great potential and opportunity to expand in Hawaii. Having a stronger organic industry will not only help the overall agricultural industry, but it will also lead to reducing imported organic products and invasive species that are commonly found on the importation of organic fruits and produce.

For nearly a century, CTAHR has helped develop and improve agricultural technologies pertinent to organic growers. 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.

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

**SB-2075-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 7:43:33 AM

Testimony for HED on 3/13/2018 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jensen Uyeda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB2075-RELATING TO THE SUSTAINABLE AND ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PROGRAM.**

Chairs McKelvy & Vice Chairs Hashem members of the House Higher Education Committee, thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in **strong support of SB 2075 SD1** relating to the Sustainable and Organic Agriculture Program (SOAP) the University of Hawaii, at Manoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources.

1. strongly support this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated by the University's Board of Regents Approved Executive Biennium Budget. Let me state from the onset of this testimony that, as a member of the faculty at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, it is important to note that I support the prioritization process that the administration utilizes to establish their annual budgetary request to the legislature and can only advocate for additional funding of university programs if it does not negatively impact existing requests that are included in the executive budget.

**My name is Jensen Uyeda and I am an Agriculture Extension Agent at UH Manoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources.**

Today, I am providing personal testimony in STRONG support for the Sustainable and Organic Agriculture Program at UH CTAHR. The SOAP program is a productive program that services statewide growers. Increased demands for research-based information is making it challenging for SOAP to keep pace with the growing agricultural community. By way of funding from the Hawaii State Legislature, SOAP can remain a viable information source for local producers and agricultural professionals.



March 10, 2018

**SB2075-RELATING TO THE SUSTAINABLE AND ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PROGRAM.**

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I strongly support this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the University's Board of Regents Approved Executive Biennium Budget. Let me state from the onset of this testimony that, as a member of the faculty at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, it is important to note that I support the prioritization process that the administration utilizes to establish their annual budgetary request to the legislature and can only advocate for additional funding of university programs if it does not negatively impact existing requests that are included in the executive budget.

**My name is Jari Sugano and I am an Extension Agent at UH Manoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources and co-project leader for the SOAP Program. Today, I am providing personal testimony.**

The Sustainable and Organic Agriculture Program (SOAP) at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (UH CTAHR) remains committed to providing continuing education, in the form of agricultural professional conferences, growers workshops, field day activities, web based newsletters, applied field research in sustainable and organic agriculture, and in field technical support for agricultural professionals and producers across the state.

The ability to expand our applied research on farmland which includes CTAHR's certified organic lands, on farm field trials, dissemination of science based information delivery relies heavily upon our ability to secure extramural funding. We rely on funding from the Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education to offer these educational resources to statewide producers but our funding is limited. Statewide request is growing and we can not keep up with increase in request for support and services.

**I believe that bill SB 2075 has much merit. I strongly recommend that it be funded. Ongoing funding to support at CTAHR is crucial to the sustainability of Hawaii's diversified agriculture. Thank you for the opportunity to express our strong support for SB 2075.**

**SB-2075-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 9:39:16 AM

Testimony for HED on 3/13/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kylie Wong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB2075-RELATING TO THE SUSTAINABLE AND ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PROGRAM.**

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I strongly support this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the University's Board of Regents Approved Executive Biennium Budget. Let me state from the onset of this testimony that, as a member of the faculty at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, it is important to note that I support the prioritization process that the administration utilizes to establish their annual budgetary request to the legislature and can only advocate for additional funding of university programs if it does not negatively impact existing requests that are included in the executive budget.

**My name is Kylie Wong and I am an Extension Agent for Maui County at UH Manoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources.**

Today, I am providing personal testimony in STRONG support for the Sustainable and Organic Agriculture Program at UH CTAHR. The SOAP program is a productive program that services statewide growers. Increased demands for research based information is making it challenging for SOAP to keep pace with the growing agricultural community. By way of funding from the Hawaii State Legislature, SOAP can remain a viable information source for local producers and agricultural professionals statewide.



**SB-2075-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 1:03:55 PM

Testimony for HED on 3/13/2018 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

My name is Amjad A. Ahmad and I am a Researcher at UH Manoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, Department of Tropical Plant and Soil Sciences.

Today, I am providing personal testimony in STRONG support for the Sustainable and Organic Agriculture Program (SOAP) at UH CTAHR (SB 2075). The SOAP program is a productive program that services statewide growers. Increased demands for research based information is making it challenging for SOAP to keep pace with the growing agricultural community and being able to reach out to wider range of stakeholders on the Hawaiian Islands. This opportunity, by way of funding from the Hawaii State Legislature, SOAP can remain a viable source of information for local producers, agricultural professionals, and the growing demand for sustainable measures in Hawaii.

God Bless You and Mahalo for supporting this bill

Sincerely

Amjad A. Ahmad, PhD

**LATE**

**SB-2075-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 2:19:01 PM

Testimony for HED on 3/13/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ted	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Chairs McKelvy & Vice Chairs Hashem members of the House Higher Education Committee, thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in **strong support of SB 2075 SD1** relating to the Sustainable and Organic Agriculture Program (SOAP) the University of Hawaii, at Manoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources.

I strongly support this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the University's Board of Regents Approved Executive Biennium Budget. Let me state from the onset of this testimony that, as a member of the faculty at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, it is important to note that I support the prioritization process that the administration utilizes to establish their annual budgetary request to the legislature and can only advocate for additional funding of university programs if it does not negatively impact existing requests that are included in the executive budget.

My name is Theodore Radovich and I am an Associate Specialist at UH Manoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources.

Today, I am providing personal testimony in STRONG support for the Sustainable and Organic Agriculture Program at UH CTAHR. The SOAP program is a productive program that services statewide growers. Increased demands for research based information is making it challenging for SOAP to keep pace with the growing agricultural community. By way of funding from the Hawaii State Legislature, SOAP can remain a viable information source for local producers and agricultural professionals.

**SB-2075-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 11:03:03 AM

Testimony for HED on 3/13/2018 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Frederick M. Mencher	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I have been involved with aquaponics education and production for the last several years. U.H. SOAP program personnel have provided valuable information that has helped me answer questions involving best practices for pest control. I believe that SOAP is a valuable program that will support the growing number of organic farmers, as well as any farmer who wishes to incorporate sustainable practices into his or her operation. I hope you will support this program by passing SB2075 SD1.

**SB-2075-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 1:56:39 PM

Testimony for HED on 3/13/2018 2:00:00 PM

<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:

**SB-2075-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/10/2018 12:01:11 AM

Testimony for HED on 3/13/2018 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Circe Carr	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2075-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 8:30:48 AM

Testimony for HED on 3/13/2018 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rebeca Zamora	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**SB-2075-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 8:04:40 PM

Testimony for HED on 3/13/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Koon-Hui Wang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chairs McKelvy & Vice Chairs Hashem, members of the House Higher Education Committee, thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in **strong support of SB 2075 SD1** relating to the Sustainable and Organic Agriculture Program (SOAP) the University of Hawaii, at Manoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources.

Today, I am providing personal testimony in STRONG support for the Sustainable and Organic Agriculture Program at UH CTAHR. The SOAP program is a productive program that services statewide growers. Increased demands for research based information is making it challenging for SOAP to keep pace with the growing agricultural community. By way of funding from the Hawaii State Legislature, SOAP can remain a viable information source for local producers and agricultural professionals. Farmers throughout Hawaii are craving for agriculture production methods that can help them to increase farm income, protect the environment, while enhance economic well-being of farm families and the rural communities. Self-sustainability of Hawaii rely strongly on the success of our farmers. Appropriate money to the educational assistant for the State, research and extension assistant at the CTAHR, and the county extension agent would be most helpful in promoting Sustainable and Organic Agriculture in Hawaii.

**LATE**

**SB-2075-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 1:07:17 AM

Testimony for HED on 3/13/2018 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Janet Pappas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



**LATE**

**SB-2075-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 7:37:39 PM

Testimony for HED on 3/13/2018 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mike Moran	Kihei Community Association (KCA)	Support	No

Comments:

Chair and Committee Members,

**SUPPORTWITH AMMENDMENTS**

Last month our all volunteer non profit traveled over to testify in support of this bill in a Senate Committee, expaling that it was asking very lilltle, protect a single school on our island with a buffer zone nand alert the community when chemical sraying was to occur. While it of course passed, as it has reached you committee, it was severly weakended in the process We ask you to minimally restore it back to the original intent with disclosure and notificatioin to protect some of our school children. Mahalo, Mike Moran for KCA