

# SB2075

## RELATING TO THE SUSTAINABLE AND ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PROGRAM.

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.



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Higher Education  
And  
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
Tuesday, February 6, 2018 at 1:18 pm  
By  
Nicholas Comerford  
Dean, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources  
And  
Michael Bruno, Vice Chancellor  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

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

Chairs Kahele and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Kim and Riviere, and members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education and Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

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

Section 1. We fully support the idea that certified organic agriculture or some version of is a valuable option in the diverse agricultural system portfolio that should exist in the state of Hawai'i. The three challenges identified also outlines the three legs of the stool that define a sustainable system. Field research conducted by CTAHR 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) Junior Researcher at Mānoa
- 2) Junior Researcher on Maui
- 3) A Research Support APT, to assist the Junior Researchers

Costs:

Junior Researcher = ~\$70,000 x 2 positions = \$140,000  
Research Support APT = approx. \$42,000 + 52% Fringe benefits \$21,840 = \$63,840  
Total Personnel = \$203,840  
Operations = \$60,000  
Grand Total = \$263,840

We fully support SB 2075 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



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 COMMITTEES ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND  
AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT**

**FEBRUARY 6, 2018  
1:18 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

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

Chairperson Kahele, Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2075, which provides for an appropriation of \$250,000 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.



**SB-2075**

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 12:28:35 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/6/2018 1:18:00 PM

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

Comments:

**SB-2075**

Submitted on: 2/3/2018 8:50:49 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/6/2018 1:18:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Joseph Kohn MD	We Are One, Inc. - www.WeAreOne.cc - WAO	Support	No

Comments:

Strongly SUPPORT Sustainable Agriculture programs. Stop poisoning the 'Ä• ina!!

**SB-2075**

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 8:35:47 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/6/2018 1:18:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jennifer Milholen	Kokua Hawaii Foundation	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2075**

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 11:20:35 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/6/2018 1:18:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lisa Agdeppa	Polanui Hiu CMMA	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2075**

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 11:14:28 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/6/2018 1:18:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Steve Rose	Maui Hemp Institute	Support	No

Comments:





*"Grown with Love"*

PO Box 534  
Waimanalo, Hawai'i 96795

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
Senate Committee on Higher Education  
Tuesday, February 6, 2018 1:18 pm  
**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 2075 – Relating to the Sustainable and Organic Agricultural Program**

Chair Gabbard, Chair Kahele and Members of the Committees:

My name is Tom Grande. My wife and I grow tropical fruits and flowers in Waimanalo.

I strongly urge your support of SB 2075 providing for additional positions and funding for the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources Sustainable and Organic Agriculture Program.

The breadth and depth of the support CTAHR and SOAP provide to the local agricultural community is extraordinary. There are three primary areas that CTAHR and SOAP provide invaluable agriculture services:

**Research** – CTAHR and SOAP are at the forefront of researching, investigating, testing and reporting on new and old sustainable practices, including techniques to control agricultural pests and to test produce varieties.

**Education** – CTAHR and SOAP provide direct education to farmers and gardeners through periodic field days and other programs.

**Direct Service** – CTAHR and SOAP provide direct service to farmers and gardeners by responding to individual requests for information and guidance.

CTAHR and SOAP face unique challenges that further support these increased staffing and funding request:

- In some other states, these services are often provided by separate entities. In effect, CTAHR and SOAP have the responsibilities of three agencies.
- Unlike most other states, in Hawai'i, the constant influx of invasive species and new agricultural pests present a constantly changing environment that require constantly evolving research, testing and education.

Please provide this additional funding for staffing this very worthy program. Thank you very much.

Thomas R. Grande



**SB-2075**

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 9:29:13 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/6/2018 1:18:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joshua Silva	University of Hawaii	Support	Yes

Comments:

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

Chairs Gabbard & Kahele, Vice Chairs Riviere & Kim and members of the Senate Agriculture and Environment and Higher Education, thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in **strong support of SB 2075** 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 Joshua Silva, and I am a Extension Agent at UH Manoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. 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.

Although demand for organic farming systems and commodities are increasing, farming inputs to successfully grow marketable crops are limited compared to conventional systems. Thus, applied research in these areas are needed for organic and small farms to succeed. The SOAP team has addressed this need and conducted research into agricultural topics such as cover crops, local organic soil amendments, integrated pest management, beneficial insects, and variety trials for crop diversification and disease

resistance. SOAP shares its findings with the farming community and public through its online newsletter called Hanai `Ai, which has disseminated university and extension research to readers statewide for nearly 8 years. Each quarterly issue attracts 500 to 1000 readers. In addition to Hanai `Ai, SOAP also hosts numerous field days and conferences statewide for local farmers every year, showcasing and demonstrating sustainable practices and applied research projects like reflective mulch and screenhouses for pest and disease control.

The ability to continue and expand our applied research on farmland which includes CTAHR's certified organic lands, on farm field trials, dissemination of science based information delivery, and recruitment of field support positions are needed to fill immediate research and educational gaps and increase our ability to answer and respond to emerging and re-occurring issues in support of Hawaii's diversified agriculture industry.

**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**

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:38:18 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/6/2018 1:18:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
DONNIE BECKER		Support	No

Comments:

The purpose

of this

Act is to

appropriate

moneys

for the

sustainable

and organic

agriculture

program

of the University

of

Hawaii college

of tropical

agriculture

and human resources

to

support

the growth  
and sustainability  
of the local  
agriculture  
industry.

**SB-2075**

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 3:38:16 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/6/2018 1:18:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
David S. Case		Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2075**

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 11:10:46 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/6/2018 1:18:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
La'akea Kaufman		Support	No

Comments:

To Whom it May Concern,

I strongly support SB 2075 for Hawai'i's farmers, food producers and consumers.

This bill will provide more readily available advice and lead to research that will benefit our members who practice sustainable and organic agriculture. It will also benefit our more conventional farmers to enable them to incorporate more sustainable practices on their farms if they so desire.

This bill is a step in a positive direction for a more just community food system for Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

La'akea Kaufman



**SB-2075**

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 11:14:50 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/6/2018 1:18:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this bill to support sustainable and organic agriculture in Hawaii.

It is very important that sustainable agriculture is cultivated for a healthy future on the islands!

**SB-2075**

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 11:18:02 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/6/2018 1:18:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dianna Wilcox	1960	Support	No

Comments:

We do need more Extension Agents

**SB-2075**

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 11:37:49 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/6/2018 1:18:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Keith Ranney		Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2075**

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 11:43:57 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/6/2018 1:18:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Raphiell Nolin		Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill to encourage sustainable agricultural practices. With the climate changing, it is more and more important that we learn how to grow and to feed ourselves healthy food. We must start now and this bill is a step in the right direction!

**SB-2075**

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 12:13:50 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/6/2018 1:18:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Heather Coad		Support	No

Comments:

As a member of HFUU and part-time farmer I strongly support the appropriation of funds to support organic, regenerative agriculture. I feel that every effort to support more sustainable agricultural practices here in Hawaii has far reaching effects that extend beyond the agricultural shpere. To aloha 'aina is to aloha all that live in and enjoy Hawaii nei.

**SB-2075**

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 12:18:51 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/6/2018 1:18:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alex Quintana		Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2075**

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 12:30:24 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/6/2018 1:18:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Barbara Best		Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2075**

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 12:32:01 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/6/2018 1:18:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
penny levin		Support	No

Comments:



**SB-2075**

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 12:42:24 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/6/2018 1:18:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Valerie Barnes		Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2075**

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 12:42:25 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/6/2018 1:18:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Helmut Klauer	A'a Li'i Farm	Support	No

Comments:

Support

**SB-2075**

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 12:57:11 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/6/2018 1:18:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Colehour Bondera	Mr.	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Esteemed Committee Members:

As a certified organic producer on Hawaii island for the past 17 years, the one thing that has always been missing, especially in comparison to my native Oregon and my graduate studies in California, are Cooperative Extension Agents who can truly and directly advise regarding organic options and patterns.

Notably, how to best reach a conclusion which meets certification standards (and who to double check with in that regard), while also being cost-effective and not hurting the fragile unique Hawaii environment means Agents who are truly familiar with tropical/Hawaiian agriculture and are looking out not only for the financial "bottom line" but equally the environmental impact of decisions made.

Since Hawaii imports such a significant percentage of produce consumed here at this time, it is vital that what is produced here is not destroying the environment and the health of farmers and farm families, aside from farm workers/employees.

That all said, it is with great pleasure and encouragement that I encourage you to fully support having more Extension Agents who can work with farmers and also pursue research to be making wise decisions and providing the best advice. While there has been some of this over the years, notably through efforts of folks such as Ted Radovich, it has been minimal compared to what is needed and Hawaii island has 60% of the farms in the state and has not had a continuous and readily available person with such skills and experience for some time, and this funding would allow the needed efforts to take a strong step forward to meet needs and to maintain healthier needs organic farmers address.

Aloha,

Colehour Bondera

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Schools Our  
Keiki Deserve

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808-351-0980  
808-627-0193

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1488 Glen Ave.  
Wahiawā

## SB2075 - Support for Sustainable and Organic Agriculture

Dear Chair Gabbard, Chair Kahele, and Members of the  
Committees:

**LATE**

This legislation will provide more readily available advice and lead to research that will benefit small farmers who practice sustainable and organic agriculture. It will also benefit our more conventional farmers to enable them to incorporate more sustainable practices on their farms if they so desire. These practices will reduce costs of all farmers and lead to better economic results. A funded CTAHR program to promote those outcomes will benefit all of Hawai'i.

Growing organic, contaminant free and nutrient-rich food is essential for the health and wellbeing of our people, land, watersheds and coral reef ecosystems. Farmers need support to transition to practices that produce this kind of food. Small-scale, sustainable family farming creates economic, environmental and sociocultural benefits within our island communities, strengthens food security and benefits our local economy on every level.

It has long been the consensus among climate-change scientists that sustainable, ecological and regenerative farming systems are key to climate change reversal. But this transition, which must happen now, requires the kind of support offered by CTAHR, which supports farmers with different ways of producing agricultural products, but they need more financial resources, via public funding, to do this work effectively

Let's spend our policy-making energy trying to figure out how to serve working families in Hawaii - and pursuing the *common good*.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Amy Perruso  
Executive Director

**LATE**

**SB-2075**

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 2:28:15 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/6/2018 1:18:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
John Dobovan	Kulahaven Farms LLC	Support	No

Comments:

As a commercial farmer I have a vested interest in maintaining the health of our soils and I am convinced that the only way to accomplish this is through sustainable practices that put carbon and nutrients back into the soil. We cannot continue to simply deplete our soils and if all we add are chemical fertilizers then the entire microbial community, upon which the health of our soil and crops depends, dies off. Over time this leads to barren land, incapable of supporting any growth at all. SB2075 is the sort of policy that we need in order to support Hawaii's farmers in the use of sustainable farming techniques so that we can all benefit from more and better locally grown food for generations to come.

Sincerely,

John Dobovan

Kulahaven Farms LLC

**LATE**

**SB-2075**

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 2:17:32 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/6/2018 1:18:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Phyllis Robinson	Maui Farmers Union United	Support	No

Comments:

As the Program Director for the HFUU (Hawaii Farmers Union United) Farm Apprentice Mentoring Program, I can see how important it is that our beginning farmers and our program have access to the important research regarding regenerative and organic practices. All 20 of our new farmers are focused on learning practices that protect our precious aina.

HFUU represents 1,347 family farmers through its 13 Chapters on the four largest Islands of Hawai'i. HFUU is in strong support of this SB2075 to support the sustainable and organic program through CTAHR. We only hope that the appropriations for anything having to do with rebuilding our soils bank account through regenerative sustainable practices will continue to be supported by our government through funding and policy. Thus making way for our farmers to provide healthy and nutritious food for the community on a consistent basis through a resilient agricultural system.

**LATE**

**SB-2075**

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 11:45:45 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/6/2018 1:18:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Pamela Boyar	Farm Lovers Farmers Markets	Support	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**SB-2075**

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 2:39:18 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/6/2018 1:18:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Steve Sakala	Hawaii Farmers Union United	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Committe Members,

HFUU (Hawaii Farmers Union United) represents 1,347 family farmers through its 13 Chapters on the four largest Islands of Hawai'i. HFUU is in strong support of this SB2075 and supports the sustainable and organic program through CTAHR. We hope that through this appropriations or anything having to do with rebuilding our soils through regenerative sustainable practices will continue to be supported by our government through funding and policy. Thus making way for our farmers to provide healthy and nutritious food for the community on a consistent basis through a resilient agricultural system.

Mahalo,

Steve Sakala



**LATE**

**SB-2075**

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 5:41:55 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/6/2018 1:18:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
marilyn jansen lopes	maui country farm tours	Support	No

Comments:

I support sustainable organic agriculture to preserve the land and proliferate a breadbasket of Hawai'i as an example of sustainable life in permaculture gardens and farms throughout the islands. With year round climate for growing it is imperative that we create new soil techniques to restore poisoned soil into thriving microbotic healthy soils creating a future for Hawai'i to sustain itself as millions of Hawaiians did in ancient times in a pristine land with zero pesticides or harmful chemical that cause cancer and birth defects! If our leaders truly care about our islands and their people they will support this bill.

Thank you

~ Marilyn Jansen Lopes

**LATE**

**SB-2075**

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 8:13:45 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/6/2018 1:18:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dr. Jana Bogs	Beyond Organic Consulting, Inc.	Support	No

Comments:



**LATE**

P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759  
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921  
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 6, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

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

Room 224  
1:18 pm

Aloha Chair Kahele, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Kim, Vice Chair Riviere, and Members of the Committees:

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**, 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.

**LATE**

**SB-2075**

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 3:38:37 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/6/2018 1:18:00 PM

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

Comments:

Organic Agriculture is the fastest growing sector in agriculture today, about 20% per year. The University of Hawai'i lacks Extension "expertise" in organic systems, and many farmers today want to move in that direction, especially young and beginning farmers. 86% of the 7,000 farms in Hawai'i are small family farms, and many of them are organic or certified organic. Let's help the University provide assistance to this growing group of Hawaii's farmers. it seems a shame that every time the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) wants to add or expand their services they need to come back to the Legislature, This is a lot of work for 3 positions, perhaps someday there will be another way. Mahalo!

**LATE**

**SB-2075**

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 10:22:17 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/6/2018 1:18:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
irene plunkett	HFUU	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. Long live the family farmer!

**LATE**

**SB-2075**

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 1:56:55 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/6/2018 1:18:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Briana Hurley		Support	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**SB-2075**

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 2:16:21 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/6/2018 1:18:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
vicki levin		Support	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**SB-2075**

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 8:33:52 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/6/2018 1:18:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dennis F Lokmer	none	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill as it provides Hawaii farmers additional information resources and support.



**LATE**

**SB-2075**

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 8:16:31 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/6/2018 1:18:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Faith Chase		Support	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**SB-2075**

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 3:47:08 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/6/2018 1:18:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Terez Amato Lindsey		Support	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**SB-2075**

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 2:38:17 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/6/2018 1:18:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tanja Miller		Support	No

Comments:

IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB2075 CTHAR SUSTAINABLE & ORGANIC AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATION

**LATE**

**SB-2075**

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 3:58:23 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/6/2018 1:18:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
brett gobar	self	Support	No

Comments:

dear reps,

to effectively expand healthy farming in our islands, we really need our reps. to be fully educated and see the importance of rapidly supporting policies and programs to employ islanders in farming.

brett gobar

b.s. water resources

**LATE**

**SB-2075**

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 10:27:40 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/6/2018 1:18:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
George Vierra		Support	No

Comments:

I support sustainable organic ag

**LATE**

**SB-2075**

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 10:30:46 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/6/2018 1:18:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tamara Paltin		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

Our ability to provide sustainable, organic agriculture locally is so important. It is important that we have people in the islands pursuing our food sovereignty. Look at Puerto Rico, we are one major hurricane away from disaster. We need to be able to grow our own sustainable, organic food.

Mahalo,

Tamara Paltin

870-0052

**LATE**

**SB-2075**

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 4:10:50 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/6/2018 1:18:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tonya Lee Coulter		Support	No

Comments:

Warm Aloha,

I strongly support of SB 2075 CTHAR SUSTAINABLE & ORGANIC AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATION. I am a Hawai'i County voter, avocado farmer and active member of the Kona Chapter HFUU.

Mahalo Nui Loa, Tonya Lee Coulter

**LATE**

**SB-2075**

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 4:52:22 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/6/2018 1:18:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shannon Rudolph		Support	No

Comments:

**Support**