

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
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

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

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

**FEBRUARY 28, 2018
11:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211**

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

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

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.





UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
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 for Academic Affairs
Vice Chancellor for Research
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 2075 – RELATING TO THE SUSTAINABLE AND ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

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.

SB-2075

Submitted on: 2/26/2018 11:46:25 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

**PRESENTATION OF THE
OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAI'I**

TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

THE SENATE

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

Wednesday, February 28, 2018

11:00 A.M.

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 211

RE: Testimony in Support of **SB2075**, RELATING TO THE SUSTAINABLE
AND ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

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

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 Senate Bill No. **2075**, relating to CTAHR Sustainable and Organic Agriculture Program; Position Funding; Operating Expenses; and an appropriation.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of Senate Bill No. **2075** and support its passage.

Senate Bill No. **2075**, is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it 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.

Specifically, the DPH Platform states, " We 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. 6, Lines 310-314(2016)).

Agriculture in our state must be preserved and its future strengthened. Sufficient prime agricultural lands must be maintained for the health, economic well-being and sustenance of the people. We believe in an integrated approach to agricultural innovation and sustainability." (Platform of the DPH, P. 2, Lines 76-78 (2016)).

As an island state, securing affordable food for all is a priority. We support healthy, sustainable, and diversified local food production, and "Buy Local" strategies to assure greater food security and food safety. (Platform of the DPH, P. 2, Lines 97-99 (2016)).

We likewise support publicly funded research and development for agricultural diversification and value-added products. (Platform of the DPH, P. 2, Lines 106-107 (2016)).

Given that Senate Bill No. **2075** 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, 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 Legislative Priorities Committee

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com, Tel.: (808) 258-8889

SB-2075

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 7:26:27 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Angela Huntemer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We need to support sustainable and organic agriculture in our state and this program needs to be funded and administered by the UH college of tropical agriculture and human resources. Thank you.