



**LATE**

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

**Date:** 02/23/2018

**Time:** 11:00 AM

**Location:** 211

**Committee:** Senate Ways and Means

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** SB 2563 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 SB 2563 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).



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

February 23, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**TESTIMONY ON SB 2563**  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 211  
11:00 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, 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 2563**, 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

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.

**SB-2563**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 11:08:45 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM



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

Comments:

Chair Dela Cruz and members of the Ways And Means Committee,

Chair Gabbard and members of the Agriculture and Environment Committee,

My name is Shaun Kamida, and I am a social studies and agriculture teacher at McKinley High School, I am testifying in favor of SB 2563. I am not qualified to teach agriculture but am taking on this program to help maintain its stability at our school. This past summer I attended the CASE (Curriculum Agriculture Science Education) Professional Development training at the University of Hawaii at Manoa to improve my knowledge in this field. The training program cost thousands of dollars, and as a beginning teacher working two jobs to help pay for a mortgage, I am grateful that DLNR was able to gain the extra funding last year to help pay for my training. My students are greatly benefiting from the curriculum as they have increased their knowledge of plant cells, environmental impacts, being able to tie in the curriculum in different subjects with agriculture, and also able to plan a Supervised Agriculture Experience (SAE). An SAE is senior level research/internship/possible Agribusiness that students create to showcase their learning in agriculture.

I highly recommend that the committee pass this bill in order to help other agriculture teachers get funding to attend Professional Development to improve their agricultural teachings. Agricultural programs will grow in size with stronger curriculum and a better agricultural informed society will benefit our state of Hawaii.

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, 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.

Mahalo!

Testifiers:

David Rietow	Ron Kauhaahaa	Donald Sommer	Loreto Obra
Joni Kamiya	Diane Chuensanguansat	Alex Franco	Joe McClure
Susan Mulkern	Robert Paull	Annette Niles	Laila Jayyousi
Wayne Katayama	Stefanie Delmont		

