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SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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Deputy to the Chairperson

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

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**MARCH 28, 2018
2:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 308**

**SENATE BILL NO. 3030 SD1 HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 3030 SD1 HD1 that encourages the development and implementation of a “whole farm system approach” through a farm mentoring program to be established within the Department of Agriculture. There is an appropriation. The Department of Agriculture supports the intent of this measure provided it does not impact the Department’s priorities listed in the Executive Budget and offers comments.

The Department of Agriculture supports efforts to improve the capacity of new and existing farms to succeed in their endeavors. We support all forms of agricultural activities and practices. However, the Department of Agriculture is not structured for or has any practical experience with establishing and implementing an agricultural educational program. In turn, the Department would rely on the expertise that currently exists in the local community, such as the Go Farm program and the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our testimony.



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS S. CHIN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



LEONARD HOSHIJO
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March 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, March 28, 2018

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 308, State Capitol

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

Re: S.B. No. 3030 SD1 HD1 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

SB3030 SD1HD1 proposes to appropriate funds to the Department of Agriculture for a farmer apprenticeship mentoring program that shall teach farmers about methods to improve soil health by using whole farm systems.

The Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, through funding provided by the State of Hawaii Legislature, has supported the development of curriculum using whole farm systems in our public schools as part of an effort to increase the workforce pipeline in the agriculture industry.

The Department of Labor and Industrial Relations supports the intent of this measure but defers to the Department of Agriculture for any administrative or budgetary implementation concerns.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Wednesday, March 28, 2018 at 2:00 p.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 3030 SD1 HD1 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of the over-all concept of SB 3030 SD1 HD1 which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for establishing a farmer mentor program, as well as curriculum development for the program in the area of whole farm systems.

CTAHR strongly supports a whole farm system approach that focuses on maintaining and enhancing soil health. Whole farm systems include diverse approaches to agriculture ranging from certified organic farming to integrated livestock/farming. The basic component of these systems is sustainable soil organic matter management, combined with integrated pest management under a verifiable economic umbrella. They typically include conservation tillage, cover crops and a well-designed cropping system.

Another important aspect of this curriculum should be teaching the economics of scale in order to assure that the farmers being trained in the program understand that a commercial operation has to be a certain size in order to become profitable (depending on the value of the crop), particularly given the costs of production involving food safety regulations. A whole farm system has the opportunity to lower the production inputs, hence making the operation more commercial.

We also suggest that a necessary component of a whole farm system curriculum is that it be based on well-documented science that passes the test of the peer review system.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of the over-all concept of the bill, but leave it to the Department of Agriculture to decide if this is within its mission.



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March 27, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON SB 3030, SD1, HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 208
2:00 PM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, 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 agrees with the intent of SB 3030, SD1, HD1, which establishes a farmer mentoring program.

Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are aging. The average age exceeds 60 years old and if they were in other professions would be retired. Yet many of these farmers are those that provide to Safeway, Times, Costco and truly make a difference in reducing imports. Unfortunately for many, succession plans do not exist and as they retire, the lands go out of agricultural production. There is an urgent need for interns or apprentices that are willing to not only work on these farms but take over their operations.

Soil health is only one aspect of being a successful farmer. Knowledge of regulations, finances, and marketing are just a few of the areas that are required to ensure that farmers are viable. We respectfully request that the **mentorship include other areas of training, so the intern or apprentice will be provided a well-rounded experience of what it takes to be a successful farmer in Hawaii.**

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