

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

DOUGLAS S. CHIN
Lt. Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

**FEBRUARY 23, 2018
11:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211**

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

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 3030 that encourages the development and implementation of a “whole farm system approach” to agriculture in Hawaii. There is an \$1 million 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our testimony.





UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Friday, February 23, 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 3030 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of the over-all concept of SB 3030 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 the 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.

SB-3030

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 10:24:23 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 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:

SB-3030

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 1:32:43 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachel L. Kailianu	Testifying for Ho`omana Pono, LLC	Support	Yes

Comments:

SB-3030

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 4:21:59 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David S. Case	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-3030

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 3:58:24 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments: