

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

GLENN K. MURANAKA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT,
EDUCATION AND HIGHER EDUCATION**

**MARCH 27, 2019
3:15 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 73
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION, AND UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA COLLEGE OF TROPICAL
AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES TO CREATE A STRATEGY FOR
STUDENTS TO LEARN ABOUT MODERN FARMING**

Chairpersons Gabbard, Kidani, and Kim and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SCR 73, requesting the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Education (DOE), and the University of Hawaii at Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) to create a strategy for students to learn about modern farming. The Department supports this measure and offers comments.

The Department will collaborate with the DOE and CTAHR to create and support opportunities for agriculture in Hawaii through a strategy that will attract students, reward them with a profitable career, and retain them in Hawaii as farmers, ranchers and producers for a wide range of commodities and interests to include fresh and value-added products for animal proteins, apiary, aquaculture, breadfruit, cacao, coffee, floriculture, forests (wood), landscape plants, macadamia nuts, organic production, taro, tea, tropical fruits, vegetables and nutraceuticals.

The Department is currently in collaboration with the DOE Career and Technical Education and CTAHR staff to develop a course for middle school students to engage them in the floriculture industry and plans to continue this effort with other commodity



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groups. The Department looks forward to expanding collaboration for ongoing programs such as 4H for K -12 students and for the Hawaii FFA for high school students statewide. Modern farming techniques as identified in this resolution can attract student interest and serve as a pathway to career opportunities in the State's agricultural sector.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senate Committee on Education

and

Senate Committee on Higher Education
Wednesday, March 27, 2019 at 3:15 p.m.

By

Nicholas Comerford

Dean, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

And

Dr. Laura Lyons

Interim Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SCR 73/SR 51 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, AND UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA
COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES TO CREATE
A STRATEGY FOR STUDENTS TO LEARN ABOUT MODERN FARMING

Chairs Gabbard, Kidani, Kim, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for the intent, but not for the action of SCR 73/SR 51. We take this position for the following reasons.

1. In 2015 the legislature passed Senate Resolution 80 that had a similar intent. Based on that resolution the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) convened the P-20 Agriculture Education Working Group. This Working Group met for three years, with no monetary support, providing annual reports, with a final report provided in December, 2018 entitled: "Final Report on a Coordinated Framework of Support for Preschool through Post-Secondary (P-20) Agriculture Education in Hawai'i. Senate Resolution 80 (2015)."
2. The main recommendation of that report to the legislature was to implement a coordinated framework of support for P-20 Agriculture Education by establishing a Coordinator position within CTAHR that was funded for the purpose of overseeing ongoing communication and spearheading the recommended Implementation Plan.
3. The Implementation Plan was:
 - a. Teacher Development;
 - b. curriculum Integration; and,

- c. encourage the establishment and funding of Agriculture Educator positions at the state, community and school levels that directly support a and b above.
4. The P-20 Working Group recommended legislation and that recommendation became currently proposed legislation: SB 762 SD1 HD1 and HB 1102 HD2, where the latter is no longer active.
5. This current resolution asks for a curriculum of modern agriculture which, in effect, is implied in 3b above. It would be the obvious intent of any process to develop curricula that deal with the most effective and the most appropriate types of agriculture that fit the climate and needs of the state.
6. This current resolution also notes that education is key to the production of future farmers. To that end SB 261 was introduced in the legislature that addresses the training of future farmers. SB 261 was introduced to support GoFarm, which has had a strong record of training new farmers outside the standard educational system, but that bill is no longer active.

While we support the intent of the resolution to develop strong curricula to be taught in the schools, we believe that this has already been done. The P-20 Agriculture Education Working Group involved participation from 16 government organizations and 21 non-governmental organizations. The Working Group met regularly over 3 years at the request of the legislature. The Working Group has gone beyond the current resolution and included teacher development as well as being proactive in increasing the number of agriculture teachers. The Working Group produced a report and recommendations for legislation that resulted in two bills. We feel that this current resolution does not significantly add to the work that was done. Since the legislature has expressed sincere interest over a period of years in the need for agriculture education from PreK-20, it is now time for the legislature to act by passing SB 762 SD1 HD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of the intent of this resolution, while noting that the intent has already been covered by a previous resolution and that legislation that would move this issue forward is now pending.

LATE

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



DR. CHRISTINA M. KISHIMOTO
SUPERINTENDENT

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

Date: 03/27/2019

Time: 03:15 PM

Location: 224

Committee: Senate Agriculture and
Environment
Senate Education
Senate Higher Education

Department: Education

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

Title of Resolution: SCR 073 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, AND UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES TO CREATE A STRATEGY FOR STUDENTS TO LEARN ABOUT MODERN FARMING.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) appreciates the intent of SCR 73, requesting multiple agencies to create a strategy for students to learn about modern farming, and respectfully provides comments. Specifically, this resolution requests collaboration among the Department of Agriculture, Department of Education, and University of Hawaii at Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources.

On December 18, 2018, University of Hawaii President David Lassner submitted a three-year culmination of inter-agency work in a final report to the 2019 Legislature, *Coordinated Framework of Support for Preschool Through Post-Secondary (P-20) Agriculture Education in Hawai'i* (Senate Resolution 80, 2015). This report may be viewed at: <https://www.hawaii.edu/offices/government-relations/2019-legislative-reports/>.

The purpose of the P-20 Agriculture Education Working Group was to assess the current state of agriculture education in Hawaii, prioritize needs, and identify next steps toward the creation of a holistic framework of support for preschool through post-secondary agriculture education in the state.

Further, the report identifies current gaps in the continuum and gives recommendations for the development of a coordinated framework of support that will renew both education and agriculture in grades PreK-20. This group of experienced teachers, administrators, and other experts in the field of agriculture education envisioned this three-year opportunity as a way to shift our state's vision and practice in the fields of agriculture, education, health, environment,

and culture.

In assuming its responsibility to advance self-sufficiency and statewide capacity around Hawaii's agricultural economic livelihood, the Department is strengthening its efforts by:

- Promoting the Department's Career and Technical Education Natural Resources pathway in conservation and environment, food and non-food production, and natural resource management. Close to half of our public schools are expanding their land laboratories, environmental stewardship and agricultural programs and pathways including, but not limited to: Kapaa, Kauai, Waimea, Molokai, Leilehua, Kahuku, Waianae, Campbell, Keaau, Waiakea and Waipahu high schools. This vision is also extended through notable complex efforts at Kohala Elementary, Eleele Elementary, Waimea Canyon Middle School, and Waipahu Intermediate.
- Engaging with an array of partners to revitalize our island agricultural economy and its contribution to local food systems. There is a collective vision and commitment, galvanized by non-profit organizations, higher education, industry and community foundations to leverage supports, resources and services to scale up agriculture-related programs across Hawaii's public school system.
- Generating renewed interest and investment by student leaders in Future Farmers of America (FFA) Hawaii. FFA leaders are promoting agriculture as a career. Today, 150 members are participating in 13 active chapters statewide.
- Providing PreK-12 school design support to integrate agricultural experiences across the content areas. For example, expanding school gardens as a learning laboratory.

Due to the specialized nature of the agricultural industry, the Department appreciates its partnership with the Department of Agriculture and University of Hawaii at Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture for technical support in continuing our work to address the recommendations offered in the Report.

Given the Department's commitment and ongoing agricultural program work, we respectfully suggest this resolution is not needed at this time.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SCR 73.

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.

SCR-73

Submitted on: 3/25/2019 4:13:19 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/27/2019 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
HERBERT M. "TIM" RICHARDS, III	Testifying for Hawaii County Council	Support	No

Comments:

SCR-73

Submitted on: 3/21/2019 2:36:03 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/27/2019 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Redfeather	Testifying for Ka Ohana O Na Pua	Comments	No

Comments:

"Modern Farming" and the "tools and techniques of modern farming," listed in this Resolution, certainly do not take the place of a deep understanding of the soil sciences, horticulture, botany, genetics, seed, etc. They would be "classes or courses" that could be added to an agricultural education that is broad and deep. These high tech solutions are expensive, require lots of energy, and add questionable nutritional value to the plants being grown in these artificial systems. We certainly wouldn't want to bank on this list of farming techniques to build our future community food system.



LATE

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March 27, 2019

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

TESTIMONY ON SCR 73/SR 51
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION, AND UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA COLLEGE OF TROPICAL
AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES TO CREATE A STRATEGY FOR
STUDENTS TO LEARN ABOUT MODERN FARMING

Room 224
3:15 PM

Aloha Chairs Gabbard, Kidani and Kim, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Members of the Committees:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director 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 SCR 73 and SR 51, which requests the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Education, and the University of Hawaii at Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources to create a strategy for students to learn about modern farming.

It is commonly known that the average age of a farmer in Hawaii is approximately 60 years old. For agriculture to be sustainable, and to produce more local crops we, as a society, must cultivate the next generation of farmers and ranchers.

The Hawaii Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, under then-Director Dwight Takamine's and then-HDOA Chair Russell 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 to address Ag Labor. The Hawaii Agriculture Skill Panel Report was the result of the stakeholder meetings. The report made a number of recommendations, of which several common themes emerged. #1 of those themes was "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.

In 2015, Hawaii State Senate Resolution No. 80 requested that the UH-Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) develop an “implementation strategy and recommendations for the creation of a statewide coordinated framework of support for P–20 agriculture education, including any proposed legislation.” SR 80 sought to build upon the expertise of CTAHR and create a coordinated effort to address Ag education.

As the demand for agriculture labor continues to increase, while the availability of labor decreases, farmers and ranchers continue to look for alternative means to operate their farms through technology. Development and teaching of new farming practices and technologies that improve farming viability, protect the land and make wise use of the State’s natural resources is necessary as Hawaii moves to increase its food security.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure

SCR-73

Submitted on: 3/25/2019 11:54:30 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/27/2019 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gwen Morinaga-Kama	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SCR-73

Submitted on: 3/25/2019 12:11:44 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/27/2019 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Harriet Witt	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

This bill is necessary if we want to end our dangerous dependence on the mainland for food.

SCR-73

Submitted on: 3/25/2019 1:13:41 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/27/2019 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Denise Key	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SCR-73

Submitted on: 3/25/2019 1:49:47 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/27/2019 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thomas Craig	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Maui needs new farmers to farm former cane lands.

SCR-73

Submitted on: 3/25/2019 2:33:18 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/27/2019 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Linda Hastings	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SCR-73

Submitted on: 3/25/2019 3:35:22 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/27/2019 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dennis F Lokmer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SCR-73

Submitted on: 3/25/2019 9:45:46 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/27/2019 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patrick Harley Simmons	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SCR-73

Submitted on: 3/25/2019 10:45:05 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/27/2019 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steven Forman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SCR-73

Submitted on: 3/26/2019 7:07:52 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/27/2019 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SCR-73

Submitted on: 3/26/2019 11:27:35 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/27/2019 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
petra zoeller	Individual	Support	No

Comments: