

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
Governor

**JOSH GREEN**  
Lt. Governor



**PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**MORRIS M. ATTA**  
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 PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
LOWER AND HIGHER EDUCATION**

**FEBRUARY 7, 2020  
2:20 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 309**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2215  
RELATING TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

Chairperson Woodson and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2215, relating to workforce development. The bill establishes a Workforce Development Coordinator position within the Department of Agriculture; specifies duties of the Coordinator and P-20 Agriculture Education Working Group; and appropriates funds. The Department offers the following comments.

The Department believes the establishment of a coordinated framework of support for P-20 agriculture education in Hawaii by a workforce development coordinator and the P-20 agriculture education working group is an appropriate means to implement the recommendations of the working group. The Department, however, is concerned that a coordinator based within the Department may lack the necessary qualifications or expertise to effectively coordinate the effort. Much of the goals and objectives sought by this measure appear to be centered on education and curriculum development. The Department's purview and expertise do not include those matters and we believe other education-based institutions, such as the University of Hawaii's



College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources or College of Education, would be better suited to coordinate this important effort.

Additionally, the Department has extremely limited office space that is fully earmarked for key vacant positions that are under active recruitment to meet our core functions and fulfill our departmental mandates, duties, and priorities effectively. It would be very difficult for the Department to accommodate an additional staff member without jeopardizing our current recruitment priorities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Lower and Higher Education  
Friday, February 7, 2020 at 2:20 p.m.

By  
Nicholas Comerford, Dean  
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources  
And  
Michael Bruno, PhD  
Provost  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### HB 2215 – RELATING TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Chair Woodson, Vice Chairs Hashem and Quinlan, and members of the House Committee on Lower and Higher Education:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support with amendments for HB 2215 that seeks to hire a Workforce Development Coordinator in the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) with multiple, well-defined duties related to agriculture education and curriculum.

The College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources was part of the 3-year P-20 Agriculture Education Working Group that submitted their final report last year, and that recommended this position.

The need to get agriculture into the view of students of all ages will be important to the continued development of the agriculture workforce in the state. This bill addresses that need and, most importantly, takes advantage of the grassroots interest in this topic by attempting to coordinate the work of many engaged groups.

We suggest an amendment that changes the responsibility for the position from the HDOA to the Hawai'i Department of Education or the University of Hawai'i. The HDOA does not have responsibility for curriculum development and we believe it does not want to take on a task for which they are not prepared to handle.

Another question to be answered is whether this should be a permanent position or a time-limited position. We suggest that the position be established as time-limited with a 5-year re-evaluation to determine if the desired outcomes have been reached.

We strongly support the intent of HB 2215 and suggest that a discussion be had as to where this program, if funded, will reside.



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

**Date:** 02/07/2020

**Time:** 02:20 PM

**Location:** 309

**Committee:** House Lower & Higher  
Education

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** HB 2215 RELATING TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.

**Purpose of Bill:** Establishes within the Department of Agriculture the Workforce Development Coordinator position. Specifies duties of the Coordinator and P-20 Agriculture Education Working Group. Appropriates funds.

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education supports HB 2215, to establish and fund a workforce development coordinator position within the Department of Agriculture to lead the implementation of a coordinated framework for P-20 agriculture education in Hawaii.

Currently, the Department's Natural Resources pathway promotes student choice, interest and aptitude in conservation and environment, food and non-food production and natural resource management. Student leadership is cultivated through a renewed interest and investment in the Future Farmers of American Hawaii that serves as a conduit to promote agriculture as a career. Schools at all levels continue to expand their gardens as a learning laboratory embedded within their unique school design to integrate agricultural experiences across the content areas.

The Department engages 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, institutions of higher education, industry and community foundations.

The Department appreciates the collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and the Hawaii P-20 agriculture education working group. We defer to the Department of Agriculture on the technical and operational considerations included in this proposal.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2215.

The Hawai'i State Department of Education is committed to delivering on our promises to

students, providing an equitable, excellent, and innovative learning environment in every school to engage and elevate our communities. 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).

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
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**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
LOWER AND HIGHER EDUCATION**

**FEBRUARY 7, 2020  
2:20 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 309**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2215  
RELATING TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

Chairperson Woodson and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2215, relating to pesticides. The bill establishes a Workforce Development Coordinator position within the Department of Agriculture; specifies duties of the Coordinator and P-20 Agriculture Education Working Group; and appropriates funds. The Department offers the following comments.

The Department believes the establishment of a coordinated framework of support for P-20 agriculture education in Hawaii by a workforce development coordinator and the P-20 agriculture education working group is an appropriate means to implement the recommendations of the working group. The Department, however, is concerned that a coordinator based within the Department may lack the necessary qualifications or expertise to effectively coordinate the effort. Much of the goals and objectives sought by this measure appear to be centered on education and curriculum development. The Department's purview and expertise do not include those matters and we believe other education-based institutions, such as the University of Hawaii's



College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources or College of Education, would be better suited to coordinate this important effort.

Additionally, the Department has extremely limited office space that is fully earmarked for key vacant positions that are under active recruitment to meet our core functions and fulfill our departmental mandates, duties, and priorities effectively. It would be very difficult for the Department to accommodate an additional staff member without jeopardizing our current recruitment priorities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 6:54:17 AM

Testimony for LHE on 2/7/2020 2:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nancy Redfeather	Ka Ohana O Na Pua	Support	No

Comments:

Since 2007, Hawai'i Family Foundations and the USDA have funded the development of School Garden Networks, Professional Development Programs for Teachers, and Hawai'i Agriculture Education Curriuclum tied to core standards K-8. This has resulted in 195 garden programs starting in DOE public and charter schools. But without any State Support or coordination it will be difficult for programs to grow or continue. The State Farm to School Hui participated in the 3 year Agriculture Education Working Group P-20 and is ready to roll out professional development and curriuclum programs to Hawaii's Teachers. This was one of the main recommendations of the DLIR's Hawai'i Agriculture Skill Panel Report 2009-2014. Mahalo to the Department of Agriculture for stepping up to house this position which will certainly grow both future farmers and future consumers who will know the value of locally produced foods. This position is essential to coordinate the support and work to remedy the gaps, that are now preventing these programs from thriving. Mahalo for your consideration.

Ka Ohana O Na Pua was established in 1991 to promote and deliver Agriculture Education from Keiki to Kupuna on Hawai'i Island.



**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 10:42:50 AM

Testimony for LHE on 2/7/2020 2:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Megan Fox	Malama Kauaâ€œi	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 10:49:08 AM

Testimony for LHE on 2/7/2020 2:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tiana Kamen	Farm to Keiki	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

My name is Tiana Kamen and I am the director of the non-profit program Farm to Keiki. We support preschool teachers and other early childhood educators statewide in Farm to Early Care initiatives. I am also a co-lead for the Hawaii Farm to Early Care and Education Hui.

I am writing in strong support of [HB2215 Relating to Workforce Development](#). I have been involved in the P-20 Agricultural Education Working group since the beginning, making sure there was an emphasis on preschool agriculture education.

By supporting this Bill, we will exponential grow Hawaii's farming workforce and our statewide focus on the connection between agriculture and food systems education. By incorporating this into teacher development programs, we can start to infuse a love for the 'Ā• ina and agriculture in all of Hawaii's children. This bill is desperately needed in our state because we are not currently teaching our children these crucial lessons about food, nutrition and resiliency.

I would like to suggest an amendment on page 4, line 13.

As a former member of the P-20 Agriculture Education Working Group, I strongly recommend that the coordinator position be housed in UH CTAHR instead of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. This is primarily because the plan strategy is to focus on teacher development, curricular integration, and agriculture education. Central to the Plan is to integrate agriculture and food systems education into pre-service and in-service teacher development programs statewide. It is most fit for this coordinator position to be situated within UH CTAHR.

Mahalo nui loa for your time hearing this bill. I do hope you pass this bill for the future of hawaii's environment and the health of our people depend on it.

Mahalo,

Tiana

Farm to Keiki, Author, Director



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 7, 2020

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LOWER & HIGHER EDUCATION

**TESTIMONY ON SB 2215**  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 309  
2:20 PM

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chairs Hashem and Quinlan, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 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 HB 2215**, which establishes within the Department of Agriculture the Workforce Development Coordinator position.

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 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. This Board convenes, in part, to execute the recommendations of the 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. It bears mentioning that CTAHR currently serves on the Ag Workforce Development Advisory Board.

Creating a Workforce Development Coordinator position within HDOA is needed to support P-20 agriculture education in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important subject.

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 10:20:54 AM

Testimony for LHE on 2/7/2020 2:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tasia Y	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha kākou-

I am writing in strong support of HB2215 for the establishment of a Workforce Development Coordinator position and appropriation of funds for this position.

In light of the state's commitment to supporting local agriculture and climate change resilience, the establishment of this coordinator position will expand efforts to grow our farming and food systems work force. In recent years, multiple studies have illustrated the holistic health and educational benefits of experiential, applied learning through land-based curricula. This coordinator position would continue the efforts of the P-20 Agriculture Education Working Group and integrate agriculture and food systems education into teacher development programs. We must equip our keiki with the knowledge and skills they will need to mitigate the effects of our current climate crises. Comprehensive agriculture and food systems education is one step towards meeting this challenge.

One suggested ammendment relates to line 13 on page 4. As a supporter of the P-20 Agriculture Education Working Group, I strongly recommend that the coordinator position be housed in UH CTAHR instead of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture, due to a primary focus on teacher development, curricular integration, and agriculture education. Central to the P-20 Agriculture Education Implementation Plan is the task of infusing agriculture and food systems education into pre-service and in-service teacher development programs across the state. As part of our state's university system, and having overseen this work since 2015, please establish this coordinator position within UH CTAHR.

In strong support of HB2215,

Tasia Yamamura

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 10:08:47 AM

Testimony for LHE on 2/7/2020 2:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
scott lacasse	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 12:09:46 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/7/2020 2:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Crystal Robello	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a supporter of this work, I strongly recommend that the coordinator position be housed in UH CTAHR instead of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture, due to a primary focus on teacher development, curricular integration, and agriculture education. As someone who lives, works, and plays in Kapolei and 'Ewa, I strongly support this bill.



**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 1:12:52 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/7/2020 2:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Molly Mamaril	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 1:54:03 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/7/2020 2:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mary Lacques	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



Date: February 6, 2020

To: Representative Justin Woodson, Chair  
Representative Mark Hashem, Vice Chair  
Representative Sean Quinlan, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Lower & Higher Education

**LATE**

From: Lydi Bernal, Coordinator, Hawai'i Farm to School Hui

Re: SUPPORT for HB2215, Relating to Workforce Development

Hrg: February 7, 2020 at 2:20pm at Conference Room 309

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Aloha and thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of HB2215**, which establishes and funds the Workforce Development Coordinator position within the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) to carry forward and expand the work of the P-20 Agriculture Education Working Group.

The Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) works to advance policy and systems change to reduce disparities and improve the health of Hawai'i residents. HIPHI is home to the Obesity Prevention Task Force<sup>1</sup> and the Hawai'i Farm to School Hui<sup>2</sup>.

Since the passage of Senate Resolution 80 in 2015, the Hawai'i Farm to School Hui has worked with the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (UH CTAHR) to convene the P-20 Agriculture Education Working Group for the purposes developing a **coordinated framework of support for preschool through post-secondary (P-20) agriculture education in Hawai'i**.

Representatives from **nearly 40 public-private-non-profit partners** have assembled under this umbrella for the past 4 years with a common goal of increasing the depth, breadth, and scope of agriculture and food systems education in the state. HB2215 is based largely on the group's final report to the 2019 legislature ([DC149](#)).

As outlined in the final report and provided for in HB2215, **the Coordinator position is essential** for continuing and expanding this work to advance a coordinated statewide approach to regenerating Hawaii's community food systems through agriculture and food systems education.

**We respectfully request that the bill be amended so that the Coordinator position is housed at UH CTAHR instead of HDOA**, due to a primary focus on teacher development, curricular integration, and agriculture education. Central to the P-20 Agriculture Education Implementation Plan is the task of infusing agriculture and food systems education into pre-

service and in-service teacher development programs across the state. As part of our state's university system, and having overseen this work since 2015, we recommend UH CTAHR as the preferred home for the Coordinator position.

This bill addresses the pressing need for **immediate and sustained investment by the state in agriculture and food systems education** in order to advance Hawaii's food security and food self-sufficiency through the development of agriculture educators, future farmers, and a society that understands, supports, and actively participates in regenerating Hawaii's community food systems.

We respectfully ask that you please amend this measure as requested and pass it out of committee.

Me Ke Aloha,

Lydi Bernal  
Coordinator, Hawai'i Farm to School Hui  
Member, Obesity Prevention Task Force  
Hawai'i Public Health Institute

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<sup>1</sup> Created by the legislature in 2012, the **Obesity Prevention Task Force** is comprised of over 40 statewide organizations, and works to make recommendations to reshape Hawaii's school, work, community, and health care environments, making healthier lifestyles obtainable for all Hawai'i residents.

<sup>2</sup> The **Hawai'i Farm to School Hui** is a statewide network comprised of five island-level networks, community organizations, schools, state agencies, and other food systems stakeholders with a collective mission to strengthen Hawaii's farm to school movement. The three pillars of successful farm to school programs are 1) school gardens, 2) agriculture, culinary, nutrition, and food systems education, and 3) school food improvements through local food procurement. The Hawai'i Farm to School Hui formed in 2010 and became a program of HIPHI in 2017.



**LATE**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LOWER & HIGHER EDUCATION  
Friday, February 7, 2020 - 2:20 PM - Room 309

**RE: HB 2215 - Relating to Workforce Development - In Support**

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Quinlan and members of the Committee:

Hawai'i Aquaculture & Aquaponics Association  
Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council  
Hawai'i Farm Bureau Federation  
Hawai'i Farmers' Union United  
Hawai'i Food Industry Association  
Hawai'i Food Manufacturers Association  
Kohala Center  
Land Use Research Foundation of Hawai'i  
Maui Farm to School Network (Maui F2SN)  
Ulupono Initiative  
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources - University of Hawai'i at Manoa

The Local Food Coalition **supports** HB 2215, which establishes within the Department of Agriculture the Workforce Development Coordinator position and specifies duties of the Coordinator and P-20 Agriculture Education Working Group.

Agricultural workforce development is vital in fostering future generations to be agriculturally literate. A comprehensive and coordinated agricultural education framework will expose students to agriculture and by doing so; hopefully increase the number of local farms and farmers, and local food production. This effort will be a major contribution towards achieving the goal of doubling local food production by 2030.

The Local Food Coalition is an organization comprising of farmers, ranchers, livestock producers, investors and other organizations working to provide Hawaii's food supply.

We respectfully request your support of HB 2215. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

John Garibaldi  
808-544-8319  
[igaribaldi@wik.com](mailto:igaribaldi@wik.com)



February 5, 2020

RE: **SUPPORT for HB2215**

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Quinlan, and Members of the House Committee on Lower & Higher Education:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of HB2215. Blue Zones Project was brought to Hawaii by HMSA to help increase the overall well-being of our communities and to make Hawaii a healthier, happier place to live, work and play. To accomplish that goal, we address ways that we can lower obesity rates, tobacco use, and chronic diseases.

The workforce develop coordinator would greatly increase exposure for students of all ages to agriculture education and drive career interest in agriculture and food systems. Studies show that agriculture education, school gardens, and hands-on nutrition learning triples student consumption of fruits and vegetables in school lunches<sup>1</sup> and increases access to low-fat fruits and vegetables at home.<sup>2</sup> Agriculture education can also play a critical role in shifting student’s perceptions about healthy foods and provide opportunities for students to experience growing and cooking their own food. This bill will also lead to more teachers being trained in agriculture education, more local farms and farmers, and a stronger local food supply, all of which are extremely important for a sustainable and healthy future.

In addition to expressing our support for this bill, we would like to request an amendment to the bill’s language; we strongly feel that the coordinator position should be housed in the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa’s College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. This would better support the capacity to develop and deploy agriculture education curriculum to our teachers.

Agriculture education can help the families of Hawai’i enjoy healthier lifestyles, which is why Blue Zones Project strongly **support HB2215**. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB2215.

Colby Takeda  
Senior Manager  
Blue Zones Project Hawaii  
Colby.takeda@sharecare.com

<sup>1</sup> Koch, P., Wolf, R., Graziose, M., Gray, H. L., Trent, R., & Uno, C. (2017) FoodCorps: Creating healthy school environments. Laurie M. Tisch Center for Food, Education & Policy, Program in Nutrition, Teachers College, Columbia University.

<sup>2</sup> Wells, N. M., Meyers, B. M., Todd, L. E., Henderson, C. R., Barale, K., . . . Franz N. K. (2018). The carry-over effects of school gardens on fruit and vegetable availability at home: A randomized controlled trial with low-income elementary schools. *Prevention Medicine*, 112:152-159.



**LATE**

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 7:32:21 AM

Testimony for LHE on 2/7/2020 2:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
jeffrey alameida	Community Program Manager, Blue Zones Project Wahiawa	Support	No

Comments:

Feb 6, 2020

*Committee on Lower & Higher Education*

Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair

Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair

Rep. Sean Quinlan, Vice Chair

Re: HB2215 Relating to Workforce Development

Aloha,

On behalf of the leadership team of the Blue Zones Project, Wahiawa, I write in support of HB2215. The benefits of this bill are many, to include;

- The continuation and expansion of the critical efforts of the P-20 Agriculture Education Working Group to grow Hawaii's farming workforce and an ag-friendly society through a focus on infusing agriculture and food systems education into teacher development programs.
- As a supporter of this work, we strongly recommend that the coordinator position be housed in UH CTAHR instead of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture, due to a primary focus on teacher development, curricular integration, and agriculture education. Central to the P-20 Agriculture Education Implementation Plan is the task of infusing agriculture and food systems education into pre-service and in-service teacher development programs across the state. As part of our state's university system, and having overseen this work since 2015, please establish this coordinator position within UH CTAHR."

Wahiawa residents and businesses have been working diligently to make our community an even better place to live, work, and play. We believe this bill is a valuable tool in encouraging a better understand of the importance of our local agricultural and food systems.

In closing, we support HB2215.

Mahalo,

Jeffrey Alameida,

Community Program Manager

Blue Zones Project, Wahiawa



**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 4:24:25 AM

Testimony for LHE on 2/7/2020 2:20:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nicole K Galase	Hawaii Cattlemen's Council	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 2:32:39 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/7/2020 2:20:00 PM



<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ming Wei Koh	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill because it continues and expands the critical efforts of the P-20 Agriculture Education Working Group to grow Hawaii's farming workforce in a society that values food and the people who grow, harvest and process the food, through a focus on infusing agriculture and food systems education into teacher development programs

As a long term member of the of the P-20 Agriculture Education Working Group since its inception, I strongly recommend that the coordinator position be housed in UH CTAHR instead of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture, due to a primary focus on teacher development, curricular integration, and agriculture education. Central to the P-20 Agriculture Education Implementation Plan is the task of infusing agriculture and food systems education into pre-service and in-service teacher development programs across the state. As part of our state's university system, and having overseen this work since 2015, please establish this coordinator position within UH CTAHR. Thus I suggest amendment on page 4, line 13 to the above.

Mahalo nui loa,

**Vincent Mina**  
President HFUU-HFUF

**Anny Bruch**  
Vice President &  
Kaua'i Chapter Pres.

**David Case**  
Secretary

**Annie Alvarado**  
Treasurer

~~~~~>~~~~~

**Christian Zuckerman**  
Wai'anae, O'ahu

**Vincent Kimura**  
Waimanalo, O'ahu

**Brynn Foster**  
North Shore, O'ahu

**Kaipo Kekona**  
Lahaina, Maui

**Bobby Pahia**  
Kahalawai, Maui

**John Dobovan**  
Haleakala, Maui

**Matthew Van Paepghem**  
Hana, Maui

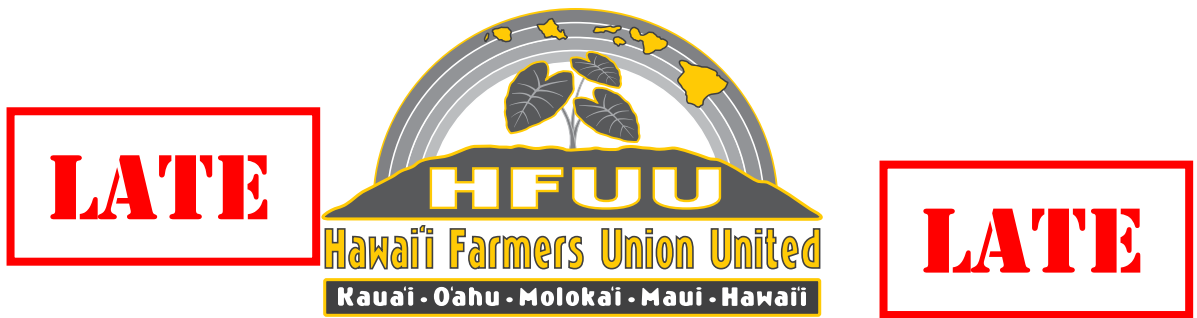
**Dash Kuhr**  
Kohala, Hawai'i

**Maureen Datta**  
Kona, Hawai'i

**Steve Lund**  
Puna, Hawai'i

**Drake Weinert**  
East Hawai'i

**Matt Drayer**  
Ka'u, Hawai'i



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LOWER & HIGHER EDUCATION  
 Friday, February 7, 2020 – 2:20 PM - Room 309  
 In Support of HB 2215 - Relating to Workforce Development

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Quinlan and members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Farmers Union United supports HB 2215, which establishes within the Department of Agriculture the Workforce Development Coordinator position and specifies duties of the Coordinator and P-20 Agriculture Education Working Group.

Senate President Ron Kouchi said this when he opened the 2019 legislative session:

*"I am most passionate about a program the former lieutenant governor started, which is Farm to School... we sourced products from local farmers and ranchers...it's my desire to see our children who are going to school have the proper meal so that they can maximize and perform at their best... it should be something that they enjoy eating, something that will nurture their minds and bodies to have them perform at their optimum levels."*

As Hawai'i State institutions strive to increase procurement of local food, it is imperative that procedures, programs, and infrastructure be developed to enable all of Hawai'i's farmers to participate in this tremendous opportunity. The members of Hawai'i Farmers Union United (HFUU) operate several community-based cooperatives and food hubs - defined by the USDA as "a centrally located facility with a business management structure facilitating the aggregation, storage, processing, distribution, and/or marketing of locally/regionally produced food products." HFUU represents approximately 1,000 family farmers in Hawai'i, which comprise about a third of producers who supply our local food for local consumption.

HFUU and its members are aligned with the state's vision for increased food security and agricultural self-sufficiency. We therefore support institutional purchasing from local food hubs and agricultural cooperatives - who represent a large portion of Hawai'i's producers currently supplying state markets. Linking local farms to institutions not only builds our collective capacity for food production, but connects our communities with the 'āina (land), improves public health, develops an educated agricultural workforce, and enriches the local food system and environment. Successful farm-to-state programs have potential to drive increased food production, fueling the evolution of our local farming sector to one of thriving small businesses generating commercial, food safe volumes while building our communities' capacity to create jobs and strengthen their resilience.

HAWAII FARMERS UNION UNITED

Vincent Mina, President

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 10:50:28 AM  
Testimony for LHE on 2/7/2020 2:20:00

**LATE**

**LATE**

| <b>Submitted By</b>   | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Erika Lechuga Disalvo | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 10:59:56 AM

Testimony for LHE on 2/7/2020 2:20:00 PM

**LATE**

**LATE**

| <b>Submitted By</b>   | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jacqueline S. Ambrose | HFUU                | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 11:10:34 AM

Testimony for LHE on 2/7/2020 2:20:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ken Stover          | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**LATE**

**LATE**

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 11:17:50

Testimony for LHE on 2/7/2020 2:

**LATE**

**LATE**

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Barbara Barry       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 11:20:42 AM  
Testimony for LHE on 2/7/2020 2:20:00 PM

**LATE**

**LATE**

| Submitted By     | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Michael Ferreira | Individual   | Support            | No                 |

Comments:

Michael Ferreira

Founding Board Member (Past)

Hawaii Farmers Union United

927049 Elele St

Kapolei, HI. 96707

In Support of HB2215

Hawaii faces a tough dilemma in achieving food security. The newer generation finds working the soil beneath them. Where Labor Brokers were able to exploit bringing people from poor countries to work here, that has all but ended leaving farmers without a workforce. There are no education programs at the lower levels in school that teaches the importance of the science of growing food, there is no vocational studies until you get into college.

There needs to be a mechanism that this Bill creates that will provide a way forward to explore and capitalize on the need to create awareness. That there are options over and above working in a field and that growing food is multifaceted. Climate change may create a huge market on this island for vertical farming. We will need workers savvy with a computer to create programs that dictate how much light or water or nutrients a vertical farm needs to create 7 growing cycles a year. There needs to be those who know how to emend soil so that outdoor farming produces the most yield but in a sustainable way.

This Bill needs to pass so that farmers may be able to do what they do best. Farm. They need to have people coming to them educated and ready to work. In this way, if farmers are more profitable, farm workers should get paid better and food security is that much closer to reality. Please pass this Bill and make it law. We sit on 12,000 acres of farm land that the developers want to pave over and build yet more houses and create more



mouths to feed due to non-use. We need to develop a long term plan to use it to get off of the "not grown here, flown here" mentality. Thank you.

Michael Ferreira

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 11:33:55 AM

Testimony for LHE on 2/7/2020 2:20:00 PM

**LATE**

**LATE**

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dennis F Lokmer     | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 11:49:01 AM  
Testimony for LHE on 2/7/2020 2:20:00 PM

**LATE**

**LATE**

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Megan Tabata        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 11:54:41 AM

Testimony for LHE on 2/7/2020 2:20:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Drew Wilkinson      | Fruit Tree Nursery  | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**LATE**

**LATE**

**LATE**

**LATE**

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 12:04:07 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/7/2020 2:20:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>                                   | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Harriet Witt        | Hawaii Farmers Union<br>United - Haleakala<br>Chapter | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

We need this bill if we are to move beyond our dangerous dependence on the mainland for our food.

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 12:32:42 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/7/2020 2:20:00 PM

**LATE**

**LATE**

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| William South       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**LATE**

**LATE**

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 12:39:15 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/7/2020 2:20:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dianna Wilcox       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 12:38:12 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/7/2020 2:20:00

**LATE**

**LATE**

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Joy Nelson          | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:



**LATE**

**LATE**

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 1:29:16 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/7/2020 2:20:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cyrus Howe          | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**LATE**

**LATE**

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 1:45:39 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/7/2020 2:20:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| valerie Lasciak     | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Helping people with new jobs is a great and important effort