



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

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February 20, 2020

To: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair,
The Honorable TY J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair, and
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Date: Thursday, February 20, 2020
Time: 12:00 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 308, State Capitol

From: Scott T. Murakami, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

Re: H.B. No. 2682 HD1 RELATING TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

HB2682 HD1 proposes to amend Chapter 141 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), by establishing within the Department of Agriculture an agricultural technology transfer and workforce development program and appropriates funds for such program.

The DLIR supports this measure, provided it does not conflict with the priorities identified in the Governor's Supplemental Budget requests.

II. COMMENTS ON THE HOUSE BILL

The Department notes there exists an increasing student interest in agricultural careers as reflected in a significant increase in the membership of the Future Farmers of America (FFA). With funding provided by the Legislature, the Department has been able to invest in projects dedicated to helping groom agricultural student leaders.

The FFA programs include career development and life skills components as part of its agricultural experience program. Increasing agricultural programs in public secondary education is an effective way to address the declining agricultural workforce. The DLIR is willing to continue to work with the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Education, and the University of Hawaii CTAHR to promote agriculture as a viable and important field of study for our youth.



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

Date: 02/20/2020
Time: 12:00 PM
Location: 308
Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: HB 2682, HD1 RELATING TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes the agricultural technology transfer and workforce development program and provides for a coordinator position to provide support for secondary agricultural education and Future Farmers of America programs. Appropriates funds. Effective 1/1/2050. (HD1)

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports HB 2682 HD1 to establish and fund an agricultural coordinator position in the Department of Agriculture to coordinate an agricultural technology transfer and workforce development program in partnership with the Department provided it does not adversely impact the Department of Agriculture's budgetary priorities.

Currently, the Department's Natural Resources pathway promotes student choice, interest and aptitude in conservation and environment, food and non-food production, as well as natural resource management. Student leadership is cultivated through a renewed interest and investment in FFA Hawaii that serves as a conduit to promote agriculture and entrepreneurship as a career. Schools at all levels continue to expand their gardens as learning laboratories 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 contribute to local food systems. There is a collective vision and commitment galvanized by non-profit organizations, higher education, industry, and community foundations.

The Department appreciates the opportunity for collaboration with the Department of Agriculture. The Department defers to the Department of Agriculture on technical and operational considerations.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2682 HD1.

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.



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Corey Rosenlee
President

Osa Tui Jr.
Vice President

Logan Okita
Secretary-Treasurer

Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

RE: HB 2682, HD1 - RELATING TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2020

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **strongly supports HB 2682, HD1,** establishes the agricultural technology transfer and workforce development program and provides for a coordinator position to provide support for secondary education agriculture and Future Farmers of America programs. Appropriates funds.

Secondary agricultural education is part of the Department of Education's natural resources pathway. This bill will also provide information to public schools, including charter schools, on agricultural education needs, opportunities, including innovative technology awareness. It will also foster entrepreneurship through Future Farmers of America work-study programs, assist public schools, including charter schools with increasing student participation and teacher collaboration, while also providing secondary agriculture teachers with and food system workshops, provide mentoring and project funding for on-campus work-study internship training, provide workshop and conference for students and teachers to engage in agricultural leadership activities, identify partners to co-fund Future Farmers of America projects grant applications for additional funding.

According the Hawaii State Department of Education, "Career and Technical Education is an educational structure that allows students the opportunity to explore and learn through the practical application of academic and technical skills and knowledge. The support and involvement of business and industry in CTE is critical to the preparation of tomorrow's skilled workforce."

There is concern among CTE stakeholders (teachers, industry experts, and employers) about the lack cutbacks to CTE programming. As a result of a federal and state emphasis on high stakes accountability over the past decade, secondary schools



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across have diverted CTE funding to core content areas, especially English Language Arts and mathematics, and cutting CTE programs.

A majority of all current job openings, both locally and nationally, are for positions that do not require a college degree. While education reform rhetoric extols “college and career readiness,” job projections by the Hawai‘i Department of Labor show that, overall, more than 70 percent of the state’s projected openings through 2022 require a high school diploma or less. For comparison, about 15 percent of future openings require a bachelor’s degree and only 4 percent require a master’s, doctoral, or professional degree.

Workforce development offerings must be expanded to allow young people to design their own futures. According to a national study, only 25 percent of polled job seekers reported receiving career pathing in high school, with 41 percent saying that they wished they had received more vocational guidance. Careers taught through the department’s vocational programming—from financial management to civil engineering to teaching—are at the core of our local economy, requiring real-world skills that benefit both students and employers alike.

Vocational training, now called CTE, should be a viable alternative to college, which is increasingly cost prohibitive for high school graduates and their families (though, notably, students who obtain CTE certifications attend college a higher rate than students who do not). This bill will allow Hawai‘i high school graduates who do not seek post-secondary education at four year institutions to have more opportunities to receive industry-based skills and certifications required to join the 21st Century job market.

The establishment of a Workforce Readiness Program with a coordinator position to provide support for secondary education agriculture and Future Farmers of America programs will help ensure that when a student graduates from high school they are prepared to be a productive member of society and able to be gainfully employed. This will have a pronounced beneficial impact on society for generations to come.

The Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.



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February 20, 2020

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 2682, HD1
RELATING TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Room 308
12:00 PM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, 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 2682, HD1, which establishes the agricultural technology transfer and workforce development program and provides for a coordinator position to provide support for secondary education agriculture and Future Farmers of American programs.

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 KTA, Safeway, Times, Costco, restaurants, and hotels 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. 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. There is an urgent need for interns or apprentices that are willing to not only work on these farms but take over their operations.

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. The board established a program by which educators and school administrators can be exposed and incentivized to adopt existing broad-based agricultural curriculums. This was an important step toward the future of agriculture by helping to address Hawaii's agriculture labor shortage. This measure proposes to build on the Agriculture Workforce Advisory Board's program.

Hawaii's FFA program is vitally important to the future of agriculture in Hawaii. The passion and direct interaction of volunteer farmers and ranchers with young people will help grow and perpetuate the ranks of the next generation of farmers and ranchers. The FFA program has a proven track record of not only exposing and educating young people to positive, hands-on experience in agricultural production but is also a program that instills leadership and life skills in a wide variety of projects.

It is clear that we must strongly support agricultural education for our young people if we are to increase Hawaii's long-term resilience and sustainability.

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



Hawai`i Association FFA

Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve

E a`o I ka hana no ka mea `o ka hana ke ali`i. E ola ke kanaka o kea ali`i.

2019-2020
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Lahainaluna High School

Michael Barros
Hawai`i Association
Executive Secretary

Troy Sueoka
Hawai`i Association
State Advisor

February 19, 2020

Aloha mai kākou,

Aloha, my name is Bronson Azama and I am a senior at James B. Castle High School, and the current Hawai`i FFA State President. I would like to clearly state my support for HB2682 and what it entails. Through experience in working with the FFA and a current student in agriculture-based education, I see the creation of a Agricultural Technology Transfer and Workforce Development Program; Coordinator; as a necessity for our perpetuity.

There is a generational movement to return to a rural lifestyle, a sustainable lifestyle, I am part of that movement. You see through education we have become what is known in my generation as being “woke”, woke to the understanding that we need to be sustainable and maintain sustainable practices. We need more people to be educated farmers and consumers and through supporting these development programs which have the ability create a pipeline of education going into college we create the needed support to grow this understanding.

The creation of a coordinator position that would focus on supporting not only our organization but Agriculture education across the state would open a plethora of opportunity for; agriculturalists, ag-stakeholders, students, and educators. It will also boost the level of partnerships we can create; partnerships that involve community, education, and government. This would happen due to having an individual who can focus their time on creating these opportunities.

What has gained my support the most for this bill is that it ensures the coordinator position be committed to working with the Future Farmers of America and its respected advisors many of which are teachers in Natural Resources, Agriculture, etc. It takes a method that allows knowledge to trickle down to the lower tiers through educating teachers, who will then educate their students.

The basis of my support is to work toward taking necessary precautions for a sustainable Hawai`i. I leave my reference to Cuba, a fellow island community and government that is taking sustainability very seriously [reference to the “Green Revolution”]. Unlike Cuba we cannot wait for an economic downturn or some sort of government collapse, we need a society that has already taken necessary precautions to have people educated and grounded in sustainability. This starts by educating the next generation, and to effectively educate the next generation we require the creation of a Agricultural Technology Transfer and Workforce Development Program; Coordinator.

Mahalo for reading this lengthy testimony and please vote in support of HB2682

HB-2682-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2020 11:00:21 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Donald Yu	Future Farmers of America	Support	No

Comments:

Hello, House of Finance committee,

My name is Donald Yu, a sentinel in the Kalani High School FFA club and I am glad to be able to voice my support for the HB2682 bill on behalf of the Kalani High School chapter. As the Hawaiian culture slowly diminishes in Hawaii, so does the drive for the preservation of the island. We currently heavily rely on the importation of foreign goods which is embarrassing considering the amount of land we have to irrigate and plant crops. According to the Department of Agriculture, about 85-90% of Hawaii's food comes from the mainland or elsewhere. As the education on agriculture slowly diminishes, so will the self-sustainability of this island. In the future, we may leave this island because of how inefficient the self-sustaining system we have here is. Even in FFA, we do receive information on the land and sustainability but it is very limited. I believe that with a proper guide, we could pave the way for our younger generations to restore Hawaii to its once former greatness.

HB-2682-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2020 8:12:01 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ken Kozuma	Waipahu Intermediate FFA	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and the Members of the Finance Committee,

Thank you so much for taking the time to schedule and review HB2682 relating to workforce development. I am testifying as the advisor to the WIS Agriscience, Waipahu Intermediate FFA Chapter and as the Hawaii State Ag Teacher's Association President, and I am in strong support of this bill.

Hawaii FFA has had a major resurgence over the last several years due to the immense support of legislators, government and private agencies and veteran teachers. Although I'm still relatively new to FFA and the agriculture industry, I've been so inspired by the hard work and dedication of the individuals who work tirelessly to improve the landscape of Hawaii agriculture.

This bill is one way that we can secure training for other teachers and our student leaders so they too can become champions for the agricultural industry not only in Hawaii, but across the nation and around the globe.

My former students have found recent success on the national level and one student is even starting a non-profit organization to spread ag-tech around the world. My students work very hard in school and advocating for the ag industry and they also work very hard to fundraise to pay for their trips and supplies. With this funding, they would be able to focus more of their time on making an impact, rather than worrying about how they will pay for their trips and necessary materials to implement their ideas.

We are also planning ag teacher workshops and an Ag Teacher Conference to support current teachers and we are working with the Deans of the College of Ag and College of Ed at the University of Hawaii to help create a pipeline of ag teachers. These programs and initiatives would directly benefit from this bill as well.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ken Kozuma

WIS Agriscience

Waipahu Intermediate FFA

HSATA President

HB-2682-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2020 7:53:03 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cheydon A	WIS FFA	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Kakou Members of the Finance Committee,

First off, I would like to thank you for giving Hawaii FFA members an opportunity to testify for the House Bill 2682 in relation to workforce development. As House Bill 2682 entails, a coordinator position in the Department of Agriculture as well as many opportunities to advance agricultural education here in Hawaii.

My name is Cheydon and I am one of the Vice-Presidents from the Waipahu Intermediate FFA chapter. As a representative from the Waipahu Intermediate FFA Chapter, I ask that you support and advance House Bill 2682 because it will not only offer a much-needed coordinator position, but it will provide so many chances for not only our FFA Chapter but all of Hawaii's FFA Chapter to advance agricultural education.

With HB2682 advanced, our advisors will be able to obtain training from FFA and agricultural technology workshops. Allowing our advisors to better teach us and allow them to be up to date with today's technology. It will also allow average agriculture students like me attend more leadership-based activities where we learn how to not only become a better leader but a better citizen.

We really do need HB2682 advanced because of all of the possibilities that FFA has yet to offer. FFA has really deeply impacted my daily life, teaching me how to be a better leader in both my school and community. FFA also gave me the chance to participate in the Job Interview Career-Development-Event, allowing me to improve my job application process skills. This has given me both experience and confidence in such a process. By advancing HB2682, it will help FFA members with leading Hawaii to a better future through agricultural education.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Cheydon

HB-2682-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 10:04:56 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katheren Lam	FFA	Support	Yes

Comments:

Hello House if Finance Committee,

I am Katheren Lam, the president of the Kalani high school chapter and I am very glad to have the chance to once testify further my support for HB2682. Taking a sentence from the FFA creed: "I believe in in my own ability to work effectively and think clearly with such knowledge and skill as I can secure, and in the amount of progressive agriculturalists to serve our own and the public interest in producing and marketing the product of our toil". Our knowledge varies from where we are from- I, coming from a city school, don't have the same experiences as someone coming from Castle high school for example. With guidance from someone educated in agriculture we can one day change Hawaii to be self sustainable. Being in Hawaii there is a bigger incentive to switch to a more sustainable lifestyle, but where and how to start is the biggest hurdle we must overcome. Unlike most organizations, FFA is focused on growing us students with our communities to build a Hawaii that has a connection to the land so that we don't simply exist here, but we live in harmony.

We may not all end up as farmers, but

"FFA has been in Hawaii for ninety-one years and during that time, has produced successful farmers, business and community leaders, and legislators."

Prior to 2000, FFA had over 30 highschools with over 800 members statewide. However, due to changes in funding and job positions in 2000, agriculture education declined and by 2010 FFA hit an all time low. In 2013-2014 the member countries rose to 126, and in the past two years we have reached just past 400 members. With more and more technology developing and upgrading we need to learn how to utilize theses skills to apply to our future which can be applied to any aspect.

Thank you for the opportunity,

Katheren Lam

HB-2682-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 7:43:08 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chynna	Hawaii FFA	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Members of the House Finance Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB2682 relating to workforce development.

My name is Chynna Chun and I am the current Hawaii FFA State Treasurer and O'ahu County VP. I am also a freshman at UH Manoa with the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR). As a representative of Hawaii FFA, I ask that you support and advance HB2682 with the end goal of providing teacher training in FFA and in emerging ag technologies, student leadership activities, and FFA ag work study funding to hire more students to work on ag related projects after school while also improving ag facilities.

Interest in agriculture education and workforce is growing at the high school and college levels and we are constantly in need of legislative support to implement more programs and opportunities to further our agriculture passions. Currently, we are in the Hawaii FFA Renaissance period. After hitting an all-time low in 2012 with only 10 active FFA programs with a total FFA membership of 126, we are resurging in numbers with 22 active FFA programs and 400+ members. Likewise, we also placed first, second, and third in the nation at the 92nd National FFA Conference in Indianapolis for Agriscience, Extemporaneous Public Speaking, and Prepared Public Speaking.

These achievements would not have been possible if it wasn't for FFA. In fact, FFA develops premier leadership which prompted me to run for state office this past year. From here, I was given the opportunity to speak at the 2019 Ag Conference as a panelist, facilitate county council workshops, be a keynote speaker at the O'ahu Districts competition, and connect with students who also share the same passion in agriculture as me. Being a spokesperson for Hawaii FFA has shaped me to become more aware of the current state of agriculture here in Hawaii. Food insecurity, the lack of farmers, ag lands being bought out for the sake of tourism? I cannot say I would be able to advocate for any of these without being in FFA.

Hawaii FFA is special in that it truly leads the way for future farmers, future leaders, and future advocates in ag. We are the melting pot of diversity in ideas, concepts, and people. We look at the world with both cultural and scientific lenses and help in inspiring

the future generation to testify and advocate for bills and issues they seem worthy. Therefore, when people see those blue corduroy jackets with that Hawaii FFA lettering in the back, remember that those young leaders represent almost a 100 years worth of hard work and dedication that will inevitably pave our future in Hawaii.

In the end, FFA has taught me to no longer be that idle student on the side who watches the "big adults" make these crucial decisions for us. We actively reach out to those who are in higher positions and demand to be taken seriously as it is our future that are in the hands of our lawmakers.

Thank you for your time and I urge you all to support this bill.

Aloha,

Chynna Chun

HB-2682-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2020 11:00:21 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ocean Ko	FFA	Support	Yes

Comments:

HB2682 HD1 Testimony

In support of

To Chair Luke and members of the Finance Committee

In Hawaii, the agricultural workforce is declining which has a negative impact on the agricultural industry. It is paramount that as a government, we address the needs of the workforce by supporting the new generation of youth in taking the first step into agricultural education. However for the youth generation to become immersed in the field of agriculture requires that the state helps support educators in addressing the need for fund appropriation. It is unquestionable, that with the right support and tools, educators are better equipped to strengthen training for secondary education students. With support, educators will be able to develop greater connections with students in the field, increase awareness of local issues facing Hawaii and the nation, and help support their interest in the field of agriculture. With support, we can create a new generation of people that can make a positive impact on our community.

HB-2682-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 8:48:11 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
aaron otsu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I believe that this bill will benefit many people beyond just the students. This can go beyond just academics and teach kids many important life lessons, other wise not taught in school.

HB-2682-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 9:13:54 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kanani Higbee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Kanani Higbee. I live in Lahaina, Maui. I am in support of this bill, HB 2682. Both my children are very involved with agriculture. My eldest daughter is the secretary for Lahainaluna Highschool Future Farmer's of America. Her sister is in the 8th grade and wants to join FFA next year. They both are very committed to agriculture in Hawaii. They come from a long family history of FFA and farmers on Maui. Back 1600 years from when Hawaiians first stepped foot on Maui.

I know this funding would be put to good use. As a certified Community Emergency Response Team member who responds to natural disasters, it's absolutely devastating for the state of Hawaii to depend on outside food sources for 90% of our food. Hawaii has fertile lands and wide open space. It's best to invest in agriculture to keep the lands beautiful for our number one industry: tourism. They don't come to Hawaii to see over development of homes and buildings.

Both of my children would like to work in agriculture as they get older. It would be best for funding to go into agriculture education. Every year this bill gets introduced, and every year, it doesn't get passed. When my mom was in FFA in the 1970's, there was so much funding for FFA from the legislator. Now all that funding is going into the visitor industry education. It's important we diversify our industries here in Hawaii. We shouldn't be dependent on tourism. I was laid off during the recession and so was most of my island. Because the island is too dependent on tourism. We need to build up agriculture more. It's harder these days to succeed in agriculture business because it requires so much skills and education. I know the funding this bill is asking would be very beneficial for the future of Hawaii.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.

With Aloha,

Kanani Higbee

HB-2682-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 10:02:50 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kamryn Shimizu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Memebers of the House Finance Committee,

Thank you for providing students, like myself, who hold a profound interest in agriculture the opportunity to testify for the Hawaii Bill 2682. As an FFA member, we strongly support this bill as it establishes programs that provide coordinate positions that support secondary education. This support of secondary education for agriculture allows students, including myself, to discover their passions. It opens up the potential to aid students in our experience and funding would continue to keep clubs like FFA alive and running for many others to develop, not only agricultural techniques, but also leadership skills, social bonds, and a bright path to career development.

My name is Kamryn Shimizu, and I am the President of the Mililani High School FFA Chapter. As a representative, I ask that you support and advance HB2682. Being apart of this club has taught me more than working outside. Through my experience of being part of something so big for almost four years, I have developed a new understanding of myself and the community around me. Agriculture is more than planting, it provides students an outlet to learn how to become leaders and change the world. Students now are our future leaders, so it is important to provide programs and emerging technology that prepares our new leaders for tomorrow.

Thank you for your time,

Kamryn Shimizu

HB-2682-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2020 10:37:31 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessica Stoerger	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in favor of HB2682. As a Natural Resource teacher in Hawaii that has worked in the Natural Resources field before teaching, I see a disconnect from the curriculum and the actual work done in the field of Natural Resources and Agriculture. Our state is in a crisis that has been lurking for many years. With the aging population working in the agriculture field, global climate change, and our dependence on imported food we are faced with a possibility of catastrophic food shortages. Agriculture has changed greatly over the last 20 years, to include more sustainable farming practices and technology advances. We need to encourage more of our students to take the lead for change.

Our schools and students need to change to meet the changes in agriculture. I was in FFA and Natural Resources in high school 20 years ago and the FFA organization has changed with the times, but our Natural Resource classes in high school have not. Teachers need workshops and training to learn about the changes in agriculture; how to produce food with limited resources, and making it more sustainable for future generations.

My Natural Resources program and FFA chapter are very small and that causes issues with funding. I do not have in the budget new science equipment, or even the basic supplies to be able to teach plant and animal systems successfully, let alone ag technology, aquaculture, and alternative energies.

Agriculture and Natural Resources are science based classes. They should be taught by teachers that have a science background, or are certified in science. I feel that if the students could earn science credit for Natural Resource classes not only will our enrollment go up but many more students would be exposed to Natural Resources. With this exposure they may not be our next large scale farmer, but hopefully they will become more conscious consumers.

Learning from our past, to change the present, for a sustainable future. Jessica Stoerger

February 19, 2020

Committee on Finance

Chairperson: Representative Sylvia Luke

Vice Chairperson: Representative Ty J.K. Cullen

Honorable Chair and Committee on Finance members.

I am writing in support House Bill 2682 HD1 related to workforce development. My name is Michael Barros, I retired from the Department of Education (DOE) in December 2017. At the time of my retirement I was the Career and Technical State Educational Specialist. Prior moving to a position at the state level within the DOE, I was a classroom Agriculture teacher at Waialua High School for 10 years. I would like to share my experience with you to emphasize why I support this bill.

In 1995, I accepted a position as the State Occupational Development Section (ODS) as the State Agriculture Specialist. In 1997, as part of a required downsizing of the State DOE bureaucracy, the Occupational Development Section which was responsible for implementation of Vocational Education was eliminated. The staff included one administrator, four Vocational Educational specialist, one each for Agriculture, Business, Home Economics, and Industrial Arts. The DOE reorganized its curriculum support at the state level to address the new Hawaii Content and Performance Standards (HCPS). Vocational Education's leadership was eliminated and replaced with one position focused on implementation of the HCPS called "Work Skills", these standard were very board and directed for all students. I was fortunate (or unfortunate) to be the one remaining position who was tasked with implementation of the new standards as well as continue to support the existing operational structure of Vocational Education.

Since 1997, Vocational Education has undergone dramatic changes mostly influenced by funding requirements at the federal level through Carl Perkin legislation. Vocational Education was transformed from the traditional four programs to Career and Technical Education and a Career Pathway System. I believe that the Career Pathway System is an excellent framework, but very difficult to implement with limited staffing.

Staffing makes a difference. Since the downsizing in 1997, enrollment in Agriculture programs steadily declined. Lack of the ability to provide program leadership, professional development, and program advocacy caused a decline in enrollment over the years. As teachers retired it was difficult to replace teachers due to the elimination of the teacher training program at the University of Hawaii, College of Education. The table below show the low point of FFA membership of 126 members in 2013-14 school year. In 1997 membership averaged between 600 to 700 members with more than 20 active chapters.

FFA Membership

Chapter	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	Total
Baldwin			3				3
Castle			11	16	15	10	52
Honoka'a	10	9	8	8	9	9	53
James Campbell	4						4
Kalaheo				20		8	28
Kalani	14	22	30	20	22	15	123
Kapa'a					14	8	22
Kauai	8	6	7	8	8	16	53
Kea'au	21	20	28	29	30	14	142
Kohala			2				2
Konawaena		1	15	13	10	16	55
Lahainaluna	13	21	9	12	12	10	77
Leilehua	16	31	133	125	137	126	568
Lokelani Middle					7	5	12
McKinley		3	6	17	19	16	61
Mililani	11	9	16	15	19	12	82
Molokai		7	14	4	10	10	45
Pahoa	7	14	18	13	18	2	72
Pearl City						13	13
Waiakea		5	11	9	10	4	39
Wai'anae					16		16
Waimea			10	20	6	11	47
Waipahu	22	20	13	16	24	14	109
Waipahu Intermediate					27	20	47
State Total	126	168	334	345	413	339	

As the background information in HB 2682 states, the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) began to support Agriculture Education and FFA. The table demonstrates that when you support a program it makes a difference. Membership increased steadily over the 5 year since the DLIR began to support FFA activities.

There are currently approximately 3,400 enrolled in Agriculture and Natural Resources Career Pathway courses. Classroom teachers need support both in professional development and coordination of FFA activities. Teachers need the ability to focus on classroom instruction and student work-based learning activities. A coordinator for Agriculture Education and FFA is essential to allow teachers this ability. Agriculture Education is a proven effective program. Your support for HB 2682 will go a long way to create an effective labor pipeline for the agriculture industry.

LATE

Thursday, February 20, 2020 at 12:00 PM
Conference Room 308

House Committee on Finance

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty Cullen, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson
Vice President, Government Relations & Community Affairs

**Re: Testimony in Support of HB 2682, HD1
Relating to Workforce Development**

My name is Michael Robinson, Vice President, Government Relations & Community Affairs at Hawai'i Pacific Health. Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system comprised of its four medical centers – Kapi'olani, Pali Momi, Straub and Wilcox and over 70 locations statewide with a mission of creating a healthier Hawai'i.

I write in support of HB 2682, HD1, which establishes the agriculture technology transfer and workforce development program and provides for a coordinator position to support the secondary education agriculture and Future Farmers of America programs. HPH acknowledges that the link between access to food and health is important. The development of healthy food systems requires development of agriculture and the fostering of future farmers who will be successful in sustaining our vital food source.

With the declining agricultural workforce, its ripple effects on our fragile food systems requires multiple solutions. In 2013, an agriculture skills panel reported that increasing youth education and training as the most common theme arising from county discussion groups on agricultural issues. Related goals included developing agricultural career interests; increasing agriculture programs in public secondary education, including internships and mentorships; and developing clear pathways to post-secondary education in agriculture.

To produce a new generation of innovative agriculturalists and natural resources stewards who are informed by the best cultural practices and by the tools and methods of research, the State needs to intensify training for secondary education agriculture teachers and students. The State also needs to support them with skill sets appropriate to foster agricultural growth in present and future Hawaii. The next generation of farmers need a deep toolkit to measure and manage plant and livestock production, nutrients, fair and inclement weather, fuel and energy consumption, and finances. The groundswell of

interest in agriculture, sourced in elementary schools and nurtured by the sustainability movement, has created a generation of informed students who must have quality secondary agricultural education destinations to foster their agricultural interests and support potential careers in agriculture. Secondary agriculture education is part of the department of education's natural resources career pathway.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.