



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

**Date:** 02/04/2020  
**Time:** 09:10 AM  
**Location:** 309  
**Committee:** House Labor & Public  
Employment

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** HB 2682 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 education agriculture and Future Farmers of American programs. Appropriates funds.

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) supports HB 2682 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.

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  
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



SCOTT T. MURAKAMI  
DIRECTOR

ANNE E. PERREIRA-EUSTAQUIO  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

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February 4, 2020

To: The Honorable Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair  
The Honorable Stacelynn K.M. Eli, Vice Chair, and  
Members of the House Committee on Labor and Public Employment

Date: Tuesday, February 4, 2020  
Time: 9:10 a.m.  
Place: Conference Room 309, State Capitol

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

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

**I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

HB2682 proposes to amend Chapter 141, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), by establishing within the Department of Agriculture an agricultural technology transfer and workforce development program. DLIR supports this measure, provided it does not conflict with the priorities identified in the Governor's Supplemental Budget requests.

**II. CURRENT LAW**

N/A

**III. 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 to the Department the has been able to invest in projects dedicated to helping groom agricultural student leaders.

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.

Tuesday, February 4, 2020 at 9:10 AM  
Conference Room 309

**House Committee on Labor & Public Employment**

To: Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair  
Representative Stacelynn K.M. Eli, Vice Chair

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

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

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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**, 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.



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759  
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e-mail [info@hfbf.org](mailto:info@hfbf.org); [www.hfbf.org](http://www.hfbf.org)

February 4, 2020

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

**TESTIMONY ON HB 2682**  
RELATING TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Room 312  
9:00 AM

Aloha Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Eli, 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 1,900 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 HB 2682**, 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.

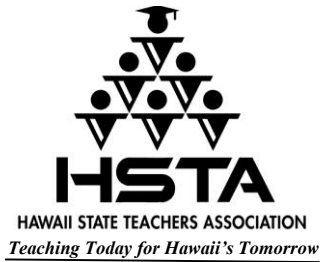
Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are aging. The average age exceeds 60 years old and if they were in other professions would be retired. Yet many of these farmers are those that provide to KTA, Safeway, Times, Costco, restaurants, and hotels and truly make a difference in reducing imports. Unfortunately 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.



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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  
LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

RE: HB 2682 - RELATING TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2020

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Johanson and Members of the Committee:

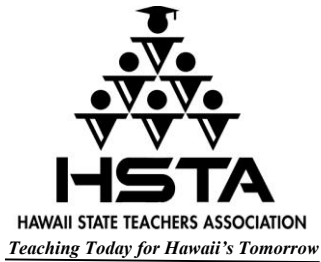
The Hawaii State Teachers Association **strongly supports HB 2682**, establishes the agricultural technology transfer and workforce development program and provides for a coordinator position to provide support for secondary education agriculture and Future Farmers of America programs. Appropriates funds.

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 21<sup>st</sup> Century job market.

The establishment of a Workforce Readiness Program 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.

**HB-2682**

Submitted on: 2/1/2020 1:39:12 PM

Testimony for LAB on 2/4/2020 9:10:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Members of the Labor & Public Employment 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**

Submitted on: 2/1/2020 9:27:00 PM

Testimony for LAB on 2/4/2020 9:10:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ken Kajihara	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Feb. 1, 2020

HB 2682 Testimony

Greetings,

I write in support of HB 2687 as a second generation ag teacher and now as an FFA volunteer in my retirement.

I also offer my voice on behalf of agriculture teachers and FFA advisors and FFA members I have known for over sixty years.

- Ag teachers have a history of going all out to support our students. In 1993, our agriculture education strategic plan included these belief statements:
- All students are our customers.
- Ag ed programs teach basic academic skills, technical skills and interpersonal skills such as honesty and integrity through the FFA.
- Ag ed programs provide integrated learning, contextual hands-on learning, practical results and nurturing and fulfilling experiences.
- Ag teachers are dedicated, cohesive, highly skilled, team players, risk takers, leaders, inspirers and able to serve all students.

Our vision elements said:

- We see programs that interact with businesses, universities, and the community to maximize partnerships, resources, and student learning.
- We see a diversified ag program as including Ag Mechanics, Aquaculture, Horticulture, Native Hawaiian Agriculture, Agriscience, Crop Production, Agribusiness , FFA and Animal Science.

This was 27 years ago, before STEM was popularized. It was 27 years ago too, that we looked to the wisdom of Hawaiian cultural practices, and it was 27 years and more ago, that we served students of very diverse backgrounds. In fact, our teachers were doing much of this for over 91 years, since the time the Hawaii FFA was chartered in 1929. It was also 35 years ago, when one program used Apple IIe and Commodore 64 computers to control farm irrigation systems and to measure soil moisture. We were experimenting with precision agriculture in 1985 and we had “modern” instructional practices already embedded in our curriculum.

Please also consider the testimonies of our youth, and note that this current generation of FFA students has not only validated our tradition of innovative ag education and leadership training, but has developed a highly informed voice that inspires agriculture teachers and supporters to keep our programs alive and growing. Please help us to nurture future generations of highly-skilled workers and leaders.

Respectfully,

Ken Kajihara

FFA Volunteer

**HB-2682**

Submitted on: 2/2/2020 7:52:50 PM

Testimony for LAB on 2/4/2020 9:10:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Cheydon A	WIS FFA	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Kakou Members of the Labor & Public Employment 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. And 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. This will not only help our advisors better teach us, but it will 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 our legislators to help us because of all of the possibilities that FFA has 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.

Aloha,

Cheydon

**HB-2682**

Submitted on: 2/2/2020 7:43:46 PM

Testimony for LAB on 2/4/2020 9:10:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Katheren Lam	FFA	Support	Yes

Comments:

Hello members of the Labor and Public Employment Committee,

My name is Katheren Lam, and I am the president of the Kalani FFA Chapter. FFA builds skills such as resilience and organization that we can apply in our future lives, whether it is dealing with nature or work. Being in Hawaii there is a bigger incentive to switch to 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. Through FFA I've grown my connections and met so many amazing people from all over the state. I've been able to come out of my shell because FFA has given me a voice to represent myself, my chapter, and the state that would have never came out of this shy little girl.

With the passing of House Bill 2682 it would be an opening opportunity for students to participate in Ag projects. The participation of conducting a SAE (Supervised Agriculture Experience) is not as simple as it sounds; these are the projects that we otherwise usually don't partake in, such as building a lemon tree pagoda for our school. It's a great feeling to do something for the community, but we as students don't have the power and funding to do it alone. In addition, our teaches may not necessarily know how to help us, which is where the HB 2682 can come in to assist. Ag technologies have advanced so far that regular teachers aren't trained to know how to use them and can be difficult to understand and explain from an outsiders point of view. Enthusiasm and good ideas cannot blossom without someone to guide it.

Aloha and best wishes,

Katheren Lam

**HB-2682**

Submitted on: 2/2/2020 8:44:30 PM

Testimony for LAB on 2/4/2020 9:10:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jheanna Carlos	Waipahu Intermediate FFA	Support	No

Comments:

Hello Members of the Labor and Public Employment Committee,

First of all, I'd like to thank you for allowing us to testify for HB2682 relating to workforce development as it will allow us to better support our advisors as well as our endeavors in advancing agriculture.

As a representative of Waipahu Intermediate FFA Chapter, I ask that you support and advance HB2682. Although I haven't been a member for very long, I've been through many experiences that have helped to further my character and knowledge of agriculture. In FFA, we strive to further educate the youth early on about all of these issues as we will be the ones to cultivate the future.

We get to visit many places, learn about agriculture, the ag industry, its problems, and think of ways to fix that. Besides that, we also have competitions and conventions that help to spread what we do and meet others with similar drives. Throughout all of this, one thing I noticed is that we are sort of short on resources. That being said, I implore you to pass the bill to better support this program as it is starting to take off in Hawaii.

This bill would fund trips, materials for projects such as our SAE or Agriscience, it would be able to fund a new coming advancement in the form of AgTech. One example of this is the new building we are trying to build at our school. It would provide more space as well as promote a mixture of Agriculture and Technology. AgTech would be beneficial as we would be using our new knowledge to improve a more sustainable lifestyle from the past.

Besides funding, we would like to have work studies for teachers and students. This would include teacher training in topics like the new ag technology and additional student leadership activities such as workshops or visits to conferences.

Overall, this bill will allow us to expand FFA and raise awareness about current issues early on. Once again, I humbly ask that you support this bill.

Aloha,  
Jheanna Carlos



**HB-2682**

Submitted on: 2/2/2020 8:59:06 PM

Testimony for LAB on 2/4/2020 9:10:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sean Michael Valencia Monte	National FFA Organization	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Members of the Labor & Public Employment Committee,

I speak on behalf of all FFA Members across the state when I say, we are extremely grateful for giving us the opportunity to testify for HB2682 relating to workforce development. Agriculture education is lacking in schools and in students and we want to change that for the purpose to educate students in every school about the importance of agriculture, which would strive us towards a more sustainable future.

I am Sean Michael Valencia Monte, a student from Waipahu High School and a proud member of the Waipahu FFA Chapter. Aside from that, I am a member of Waipahu High School's Key Club, Science Olympiad, and an Assistant Treasurer of the Freshman Council.

As a representative of the Waipahu FFA Chapter, I ask that you support HB2682 because it would help advance the education of agriculture in schools across the state. Also, it will provide the support that our State FFA Organization needs to inspire more students to achieve personal growth and premier leadership.

The FFA (Future Farmers of America) is the biggest Career Technical Student Organization in the world with over 700,000 members in the nation. FFA has helped develop leadership and communication skills that I have been lacking in my former years. We also look for agriculture problems and come up with ideas and solutions for that problem. For instance, my partner and I were able to present our findings about bokashi, a sustainable way of composting using food waste, to a panel of judges in the National FFA Convention and won first in the whole nation in our respective category. This organization also helps us develop, as I have noted earlier, premier leadership and personal growth. We recently competed in the District Competition and placed for our Career Development Event. This request would help us raise money to go to the States Competition in Maui, Hawaii. FFA has truly impacted me as a person. I found the right path to take and hope to pursue an occupation in the agriculture field one day as an

Environmental Scientist. FFA's motto, "Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve" will always stick with me throughout my life.

Sincerely,

Sean Michael Valencia Monte

**HB-2682**

Submitted on: 2/2/2020 10:04:09 PM

Testimony for LAB on 2/4/2020 9:10:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Hadassah Hermoso	Future Farmers Of America	Support	No

Comments:

1. Explain or describe the program, purpose of request, and number of students/faculty involved.

The FFA (Future Farmers of America) is the biggest CTSO (Career Technical Student Organization) in the world having about 700,000 members in the nation and we have about 15 members in our Waipahu Chapter. In this organization we learn the concepts of agriculture and find ways to apply it to the real world. We also look for agriculture problems and come up with ideas and solutions for that problem. For example two of our students experimented on Bokashi, a sustainable way of reusing food waste into fertilizer, and presented this to a panel of judges at the FFA Nationals placing 1st in the whole nation. This organization also helps us develop leadership skills like public speaking and learning ways for a speedy meeting. We have recently competed in our districts and placed for our competitions. This request would help us raise money to go to our next competition in Maui, Hawaii. We have three advisors; Mr. Garvey, Ms. Tenn, and Ms. Meggs.

2. Explain how the program will benefit the school/students/faculty.

This program can benefit the school/students and faculty because it is important to improve the agriculture in Hawaii and educate today's youth. Young students, as well as faculty adults are getting to learn that agriculture isn't just about farming but learning how to sustain ourselves with crops, medicine and other agricultural pursuits. We as kids are the future. FFA is just an organization to help get a start and boost potential in young kids and adults to make a change through agriculture. It helps to educate young students to not only learn about agriculture but to one day pursue it by starting young. Through the program kids can have the chance to experience the struggles of past generations. Through engage with one another through hands on field-trips, competition,

and events. We value the struggles of working in a loi and protecting our Ā• ina. Agriculture doesn't just mean being able to help environmentally but help protect the agricultural industry. In addition, the department works to prevent and establish new plants, animals and diseases.

3. Describe other fundraising efforts planned or held.

We should hold an events in schools to support agriculture. Getting more exposure through elementary through fundraising a event with games and speakers.

**HB-2682**

Submitted on: 2/2/2020 10:14:23 PM

Testimony for LAB on 2/4/2020 9:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Yukari Kobayashi	FFA	Support	No

Comments:

**Aloha Members of the Labor & Public Employment Committee,**

**I'd first like to say that I'm extremely grateful for the chance you've given us to testify for HB2682, which allows advancement in the agricultural industry through self-development activities as well as providing more resources to our advisors with the help of teacher training. The bill also gives us the opportunity to advance in terms of technology, facilities, ag projects.**

**As a representative of the Waipahu Intermediate FFA Chapter, I ask that you support and advance HB2682. Despite the fact that I haven't joined FFA until this year, I've quickly learned what FFA strives to represent, and how agriculture affects so many things today and brings so many people together towards one goal. FFA has taught me so many life skills and has definitely opened my eyes up to varying world issues, letting me become more involved in the community. It also raised to my attention that the youth, is in fact the future, and that all the knowledge, time, and dedication should be invested into them. They're the ones that have the most potential to build a better Hawaii, and shortly after joining FFA, I've realized that my passion was to take action by educating the youth, preparing them as the next generation of FFA. Whenever opportunities come up, I'm taught to quickly grab them, so whenever opportunities to advance the technology and social standing we have comes up, I'm happy to get involved. However, sometimes we don't have enough of the resources to fulfill our goals, but if we did, then we'd be able to incorporate agriculture with robotics (AgTech), build innovative labs to help with experimentation for ag projects, and of course improve what we have now to get everything ready for the future.**

**To sum up this testimony, the bill would allow huge advancements in FFA, and go towards the future of the ag community which would be extremely beneficial to the state of Hawaii. Once again, I humbly ask that you support this bill.**

**Mahalo nui loa,**

**Yukari Kobayashi**

**HB-2682**

Submitted on: 2/2/2020 10:15:23 PM

Testimony for LAB on 2/4/2020 9:10:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Hannah Nicole Apostol	The National Future Farmers of America (FFA)	Support	No

Comments:

Good evening members of the Labor and Public Employment Committee,

Thank you for giving me the amazing opportunity to testify for the HB2682 bill relating to workforce development. Through this bill, we request for a coordinator position to be placed into the department of agriculture, teacher training, more student leadership activities, and more work-study funding in the profession of agriculture.

I am Hannah Nicole Apostol, a 10th grader from the Waipahu FFA chapter. I am currently serving my 3rd year in this organization and currently the chapter Vice President. As a representative of the Waipahu FFA chapter, I ask that you support and advance the HB2682 bill because of the FFA organization has done so much for me as a whole.

Through this organization, I found a passion for agriculture and a reason why I want to keep on fighting for it. It continues to be our foundation Although agriculture becomes unappealing towards younger generations and as a result, we have fewer and fewer people in this profession. It is a huge importance to have teachers who are trained and have personal experience in the agriculture industry because they can inspire the next generations who control our future. If we don't have more people in this profession, who will be able to support our next generations to come onto this planet? This is why I can't stress enough that we should implement more teachers in this profession who are passionate about agriculture. Through this organization, I was also able to find so many interests that I never thought I'd have, like Science Fair. I participated in the Agriscience fair twice and became a two-time nationalist finalist. I think it's really important to have more funding towards agriculture projects because as the planet continues to improve and advance through time, so does agriculture. I believe it's important to fund these types of studies in Agriculture because we'll need to advance in order to support our planet. Lastly, through FFA, I have gained so many leadership skills and grew so much as a human being with an increment in my self-confidence to self-love. I became the leader I am today and the person I am through this organization. For this, I believe that we need more student leadership organizations in the agriculture industry because the future relies on our new leaders. We need more leaders to help implement the agriculture industry through the next generations to come. For this to happen, we need

someone to guide us, we need someone to fight for the agriculture industry in the islands of Hawaii. We can't rely on imports forever, we need to create our own sustainable future so this is why we ask for a coordinator in the Department of Agriculture. I, Hannah Nicole Apostol, thank you for listening to my testimony.



**HB-2682**

Submitted on: 2/2/2020 10:16:13 PM

Testimony for LAB on 2/4/2020 9:10:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mariah Quibol	National FFA Organization	Support	No

Comments:

**Aloha Members of the Labor and Public Employment Committee,**

**I am speaking and representing all the FFA members across our state that we are very grateful for the opportunity to testify for the HB2682 relating to the workforce development. Agriculture has been lacking in schools and as a student we want to change that because agriculture is an important lessons to be learned without agriculture wouldn't have the things we have now, such as food, clothes, jobs, and more.**

**I am Mariah Pricella Quibol, a proud FFA member of the Waipahu FFA chapter. I am also part of the student Council as a Senate Representative. I humbly ask that you support and advance the HB2682 because it would help our state's education to progress in agriculture by improving our agricultural facilities. It would also offer our State FFA Organization and schools to implement more FFA programs to encourage more students to give back and be apart of agriculture industry.**

**FFA has helped me develop to who I am today. As opposed to now, I used to be that quiet person in school that don't speak up with what I want and always followed people around. Once I joined FFA and found a purpose through agricultural education, I became more active in school, I was able to break out of my shell, and grow socially and see the world differently. I am able to delegate task that needs to be done, and I got better at public speaking. As an FFA member, I would say "To do what we can, with what we have, where we are," which is the whole embodiment as to why we need more funds for agricultural facilities in Hawaii right now.**

**Sincerely,**

**Mariah Pricella Quibol**



**HB-2682**

Submitted on: 2/2/2020 10:37:55 PM

Testimony for LAB on 2/4/2020 9:10:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Aren Pai	Hawaii FFA- Mililani Chapter	Support	No

Comments:

Members of the Labor & Public Employment Committee,

Thank you for giving the Hawaii FFA chapters the opportunity to testify for the Hawaii Bill 2682 relating to workforce development. We heavily sponsor the HB 2682 bill because it will install a coordinate position in the Department of Agriculture so agriculture education can be a focus as emerging ag technologies grow, student leadership activities can enhance the voice of our posterity, and for more FFA Ag Work Study funding that will aid students in their agricultural experience and the facility in their agricultural management.

My name is Aren Pai and I am the Vice President of the Mililani High School FFA Chapter in Hawaii. As a representative of the Mililani Chapter, I ask that you support and advance HB2682. Future Farmers of America is not solely about farming techniques and the agriculture business. It is about advocating for one's own beliefs; what we feel is best for the State of Hawaii. We are the future generation. The decisions of today will directly impact our future.

FFA has given me the opportunity to communicate my voice to teachers, faculty, professionals, out-of-state chapters, and most of all, our legislators. This student leadership organization is special because it connects so many from different backgrounds so we can all achieve one common goal: we all believe in the future. Not just the future of agriculture or business. But the brighter, more sustainable future. We need support every year to enhance our impact. So not only 200 students believe, but so other communities and counties can put their support in what we do. We can all work toward that common goal of creating a brighter future.

Aloha,

Aren Pai

**HB-2682**

Submitted on: 2/2/2020 10:41:00 PM

Testimony for LAB on 2/4/2020 9:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jarvia	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**Dear Members of the Labor & Public Employment Committee,**

**First of all, I would like to thank you for allowing us to testify for HB2682 relating to the agricultural workforce development program. This bill is about how the State should enhance our agricultural education to accommodate the growing number of agriculturalists and natural resources stewards. Right now, we have a program called the Future Farmers of America, which has cultivated many successful farmers, community and business leaders.**

**Now, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Jarvia and I am from the state of Hawaii. I am one of the Vice-Presidents from the Waipahu Intermediate FFA Chapter. As a representative of the Waipahu Intermediate FFA Chapter, I ask that you support and advance HB2682. Although being a member for only a short while, I have been given many opportunities. First of all, I learned many new and vital skills. As part of this program, I have participated in numerous activities that strengthened my skills in public speaking, parliamentary procedure, and many more. Another huge opportunity I have been given is that I can enter the agriscience competition. This is an agricultural science fair for middle schoolers and high schoolers. This has given me and many other FFA members a chance to display our knowledge and research on developments and issues in the agricultural industry. It also gives everyone that is participating a chance to learn from everyone else's research. For me personally, I have listened to our current state officers' speech about different issues in our agricultural industry in our State of Hawaii. Their speeches showed me that we have so many issues in Hawaii that we need to tackle before it's too late. Being in FFA gave me a chance to talk and build a connection with other FFA members. In FFA, we have a chance to discuss many topics and also discuss about how we can fix our agricultural problems in Hawaii. In my situation, I learned about how some fruits are seasonal and how that negatively affects farmers. I learned that many of the farmers' crops are going to waste due to this. That is a problem I am trying to solve in my experiment and I am also conducting research on this topic. That shows how FFA**

**is a very special and important program as it helps us tackle the problems we have in Hawaii and how we can make it a better state. FFA helps prepare youth to lead Hawaii to a better future as it is a program that presents agricultural problems we have today and how it can affect us in the future. As it talks about how it can affect us in the future, it motivates the youth to create solutions to solve these problems as it will affect their generation in the long run. That is why our Hawaii legislatures should support and help us pass this bill.**

**Aloha,**

**Jarvia**

The Following  
Testimony is  
Marked Late

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 LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

FEBRUARY 4, 2020  
9:10 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 309

HOUSE BILL NO. 2682  
RELATING TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Chairperson Johanson and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2682. This measure establishes the agricultural technology transfer and workforce development program; creates a coordinator position within the Department of Agriculture to provide support for secondary agriculture education and Future Farmers of American programs; and appropriates funds. The Department of Agriculture supports the intent of this measure and offers the following comments.

The Department has been a longstanding supporter of Future Farmers of America and its programs and agrees that additional support for secondary agriculture education is needed. However, a workforce development program already exists within the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations that provides similar coordination between educational/vocational training with employment opportunities that may be better suited to the important goals of this measure. Due to their experience with educational outreach and job placement, the Department believes an initiative such as this would be better served by those existing programs rather than creating a new program within the Department. The Department is also concerned that it currently lacks sufficient office space and operating resources to carry out this function effectively so if this Committee is inclined to move this measure forward, we respectfully recommend the inclusion of additional resources to ensure that it is implemented successfully.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**HB-2682**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 2:42:30 PM

Testimony for LAB on 2/4/2020 9:10:00 AM



<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Harvey Tagalicud	Future Farmers of America	Support	No

Comments:

Agriculture is intimately intertwined with Hawaiian history and culture. From legends to our economic growth, agriculture has played a crucial role in getting our home to where it is now. The decline in agricultural prospects and opportunities for Hawaii residents in the present day is concerning. The lack of education in farming and natural resources for our students has effectively shut countless potential workers out of one of our most integral industries, an industry that we need to survive. Furthermore, creating farmers out of our students requires exposure from a young age, the seed needs to be planted before it can bloom, and the seed needs to be nurtured or it will die out early. We as a state owe it to our youth to allow them a path to the agricultural field, and as of now, that path has been marred by a lack of hands on, real-world based, agricultural education, the removal of funding and support for our CTE programs, and the perpetuation of an academic culture that discourages students from participating in CTE elective courses. As a student, I can attest to the fact that teachers who are willing to teach us should be given the resources to do so. I cannot fathom all the ways my FFA advisors have supported me and my journey as a person and a leader throughout my high school experience. Their tireless support, passion for their students and agriculture, and a genuine desire to help us succeed has affected me greatly and provided me direction. Now, as a college student, am I able to reap the fruits of the seeds my advisors have sewn within me. We must emphasize a need for these educators in CTE courses and support them and our students throughout the 12 years that serve to help students choose a career. I am in full support the bill that supports the teachers and advisors who have helped me and countless other students find our way in the world and bolstered our skills in leadership and agriculture.



**LATE**

**HB-2682**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 5:00:09 PM

Testimony for LAB on 2/4/2020 9:10:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kamryn Shimizu	Future Farmers of America	Support	No

Comments:

**Members of the Labor & Public Employment 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.**

**Aloha,**

**Kamryn Shimizu**

**LATE**

**HB-2682**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 5:17:38 PM

Testimony for LAB on 2/4/2020 9:10:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Koby Sison	Future Farmers of America	Support	No

Comments:

**Members of the Labor & Public Employment Committee,**

**Thank you for allowing members of the Hawaii FFA organization to have the opportunity to testify for the Hawaii Bill 2682. Being an FFA member, I strongly support this bill asking for a coordinator position for the Department of Agriculture. This support of secondary education for agriculture allows us, members, to continue our focused learning on agricultural topics. By providing teacher training in FFA and student leadership activities, students will continue to undergo career and personal development.**

**My name is Koby Sison, and I am a corresponding member of the Mililani High School FFA Chapter. As a representative, I ask that you support and advance HB2682. Being apart of this club has opened my eyes to the world around me. Support for this club is extremely necessary as it has exposed me to skills that are not taught in normal classrooms. I have developed new leadership skills through a short time since joining this huge organization. I have seen firsthand that there is more to agriculture than what most people think. Providing support for secondary education and these programs allows the growth and exposure that I have experienced, for all the future leaders my age.**

**Aloha,**

**Koby Sison**

**HB-2682**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 6:44:51 PM

Testimony for LAB on 2/4/2020 9:10:00 AM



<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Audrey Li	FFA	Support	No

Comments:

I support the bill because without our FFA program I wouldn't have been able to meet so many inspiring people and learn about agriculture in depth. The difference that good FFA teachers can make is astounding because they encourage students to work on projects and run with ideas. It would be amazing for students in the future to have better opportunities than I did regarding agriculture and I want that for them.

FFA has broadened my horizons on agriculture because I've never thought of agriculture as something super important. I've been able to learn about our food systems and how important sustainable practices are to our island and planet. It's also been inspiring to meet people from different walks of life who are as equally passionate as you are about something.

We need legislature support because FFA needs more talented teachers and instructors to support students that have great ideas. Students have so much potential that is being wasted from a lack of AG resources like teachers and training. With legislature support, we could build these students and encourage them to go into a field that supports agriculture.

FFA prepares us to build a sustainable Hawaii through the different workshops and conferences that we have. We learn about sustainable practices that other FFA chapters and businesses are doing around the island. Through this knowledge we're able to educate our peers and family on how to live a little more sustainable.

**LATE**

TESTIMONY for HB2682

DATE OF HEARING – Feb 3

MEASURE TITLE: Relating to Workforce Development      Submitted by: David Fuertes

Good day Committee Members. My name is David Fuertes from North Kohala. I attended Waimea High School on Kauai and was in the FFA program for 4 years from 1962-66. At that time, it was only for boys and most of us were labeled, “under achievers “where college was beyond expectation. My teachers Mr. Kunimitsu and Mr. Kajihara were the only teachers that acknowledged my talents which was being able to outwork any student, growing vegetables and raising animals that supplemented our family’s (10 of us) food source. I also enjoyed some profits from my FFA Entrepreneurial projects. I quit any extracurricular activities including sports after my freshmen year so I could concentrate on helping to feed our family while also supplementing our family income from selling my crop produce and animals. My biggest accomplishment was when I received the State Farmer Pin at the State Convention as a senior in Oahu.

Encouraged by my Ag teachers to attend college, I majored in Agriculture and between the Viet Nam war I was able to receive my BS degree at UH Manoa. I elected to continue for my professional diploma so I could teach Agriculture, have my own FFA Chapter and become like my Mentors, the Ag teachers who influenced students to “Achieve to their highest with Aloha and respect for others.” During my career as Ag teacher at Kohala High School, our small Kohala FFA Chapter produced 5 State Presidents, 6 state Officers and countless State contests winners. As a result, most of the leaders in our community are former FFA members that are entrepreneurs in Agri Business, Agri Tourism, and Administrators in the Hotel industry and public sectors. My former student Sylvia Hussy just became the CEO for Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

The FFA program in most high schools have diminished through DOE initiatives in the past years. Only until 5 years ago when your legislature created funding thru DLIR and DOA through the “Ag Advisory Workforce Committee” we have made epic strides in rebuilding the FFA programs in our DOE system. FFA are now established in younger grade levels, middle schools, increase of Chapters, increase of members, increase of participation on National levels, and now winners on the National levels. Hawaii have not seen a National winner in almost 50 years when former Libby Viduya from Lanai High School ranked in Public Speaking contest. Mr. Viduya became a State DOE complex Superintendent. Compared to when I was in FFA, our students were from the SPED students and now, with attracting higher caliber academic students focus in on planning their destiny while appreciating and caring for our Aina making a positive difference on our planet.

As a retired Ag teacher and now Executive Director for a non-profit, “Kahua Pa’a Mua”, we work with DOE Ag. Teachers and sponsored workshops in; Leadership, Record Keeping, Planning, and Korean Natural Farming. We see the surge of high interest in many teachers wanting to provide FFA opportunities for their students. While the demand is high and the DOE, CTE resources are limited, additional help is needed to assist the FFA program survive once again. It’s worries me to revert back almost 20 years when the FFA was almost completely lost. Twenty years ago CTE (Career Technical Education) had (1) specialist for each area: Agriculture, Home Economic, Industrial Arts, Business, Home Economics, but today, CTE has only one specialist for all five areas.

Please support HB2682. in hopes that we can provide effective Education to our future Leaders so some day they will be engage in Food Resilience endeavors.

**LATE**

**HB-2682**

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 10:06:16 AM

Testimony for LAB on 2/4/2020 9:10:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Amy Brinker	Individual	Support	No

Comments: