



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
and
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Tuesday, February 11, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.

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

SB 2729 – RELATING TO AQUACULTURE

Chairs Kim and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Kidani and Ruderman, and members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education and Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of SB 2729 that appropriates funds for the University of Hawai'i (UH) College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR or the LANDGRANT program of UH) and the Sea Grant College Program (the SEAGRANT program of UH) to support the sustainable growth of the local aquaculture industry by establishing two (2) permanent Aquaculture Extension Agent positions and one (1) permanent Aquaculture Research position.

This bill is an outcome of the Hawai'i Interagency Biosecurity Plan which seeks to support safe growth in the aquaculture industry. The CTAHR/LANDGRANT and SEAGRANT programs at UH have long been collaborators in research.

The existing team of University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) personnel that support aquaculture in the state includes:

- one (1) permanent Aquaculture Researcher in CTAHR/LANDGRANT;
- one temporary grant-funded Extension Agent with SEAGRANT stationed in Hilo; and
- one (1) joint appointed permanent Aquaculture Specialist shared between CTAHR/LANDGRANT and SEAGRANT.

These are the only CTAHR/LANDGRANT and SEAGRANT resources currently carved out from UHM resources to help the industry develop and thrive.

The development of an aquaculture industry in Hawai'i will depend on continued research and extension. We have already seen the value of that research in the expertise that the current faculty provide, such as in deciding what species to import to support aquaculture, via testimony to the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture Advisory Board.

This bill supports the biosecurity of aquaculture in the state by providing the following:

1. it would enhance the Extension Agent support for aquaculture state-wide with the second permanent Aquaculture Extension Agent position in CTAHR/LANDGRANT;
2. it would provide much needed research support to aquaculture with the permanent Aquaculture Researcher in CTAHR/LANDGRANT working with a focus on biosecurity; and
3. it would make the temporary grant-funded Extension Agent in Hilo with SEAGRANT a permanent position.

The budgetary issue related to these positions are itemized below.

Extension Agents (2): Position numbers for each agent, plus \$80,000 per year salary.

Researcher: Position number plus, \$84,000 per year salary.

Total annual budget: 3 position numbers and \$244,000 per year.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Budget.

SB-2729

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 6:51:01 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/11/2020 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ronald Weidenbach	Testifying for Hawaii Aquaculture & Aquaponics Association	Support	No

Comments:

The HAAA strongly supports SB2729 which will add aquaculture extension and research positions to UHM to help to support and expand the Hawaii aquaculture industry. This in turn will help to increase local food production and security, and provide additional economic development opprtunities for Hawaii's rural communities statewide. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in stromg suport of this measure.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEES ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Tuesday, February 11, 2020 — 3:00 p.m. — Room 229

Ulupono Initiative supports SB 2729, Relating to Aquaculture.

Dear Chair Kim, Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Amy Hennessey, and I am the Senior Vice President of Communications & External Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-based impact investment firm that strives to improve our community's quality of life by creating more locally produced food; increasing affordable clean renewable energy and transportation options; and better managing waste and fresh water resources.

Ulupono supports SB 2729, which appropriates funds for the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources and the Sea Grant College Program to support the sustainable growth of the local aquaculture industry by establishing 2 permanent aquaculture extension agent positions and 1 permanent aquaculture research position.

Ulupono supports local food production and recognizes the role aquaculture plays in the State meeting its food security goals. According to the USDA-NASS 2017 Hawaii Aquaculture Annual Release, Hawaii's 2017 aquaculture sales totaled \$76.4 million, up from 2016. The aquaculture industry is primed to contribute to the local market as an economic contributor for Hawaii agriculture. Providing necessary support through research and hands-on training/mentorship from the University of Hawaii will ensure that best management practices and economic viability can be achieved by aquaculture producers in the State.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Amy Hennessey, APR
Senior Vice President, Communications & External Affairs

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i

SB-2729

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 12:31:42 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/11/2020 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Azuma Chrupalyk	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2729

Submitted on: 2/8/2020 12:56:31 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/11/2020 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support SB2729.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei

2029 Nuuanu Ave. #1510
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817
February 9, 2020

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair, and Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair, and Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
State Capitol, 415 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chairs Kim and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Kidani and Ruderman, and Members of the Committees,

I am sending this testimony in **strong support of SB 2729**, "Relating to Aquaculture," which would establish two permanent CTAHR extension agent positions and one research position in aquaculture.

I have been involved in aquaculture and aquaponics in Hawai'i for the past 40 years. As SB 2729 notes, Hawai'i aquaculture production generates more than \$75 million in revenues per year, making it one of the largest sectors of Hawai'i's diversified agriculture, with great potential for further expansion. Aquaculture is an increasingly technical enterprise, requiring input from a wide variety of fields including biology, microbiology, chemistry, environmental science, and food science, plus economics and marketing. To be sustainable, aquaculture must minimize inputs of feed, water, and electricity while also minimizing impacts on the environment. If aquaculture is to realize its full potential locally, Hawai'i's aquafarmers need access to the latest information and technology.

In the past, CTAHR had aquaculture extension positions, and these personnel successfully transferred technology to the private sector, but most of CTAHR's capabilities in this area have been lost through attrition. I therefore encourage your committees to support SB 2729 and help restore CTAHR's ability to promote sustainable aquaculture as a critical part of Hawai'i's food security efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frederick M. Mencher". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Frederick M. Mencher

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 SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT AND
HIGHER EDUCATION

FEBRUARY 11, 2020
3:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 229

SENATE BILL NO. 2726
RELATING TO AQUACULTURE

Chairperson Gabbard, Chairperson Kim and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2726, relating to Aquaculture. The bill appropriates funds for the University of Hawaii's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources and the Sea Grant College Program to support the sustainable growth of the local aquaculture industry by establishing 2 permanent aquaculture extension agent positions and 1 permanent aquaculture research position. The Department supports the bill.

The Department was an active participant in the development of the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan and supports its recommendations for position establishment and funding to assist the aquaculture industry. For the aquaculture industry to sustain growth, good aquaculture practices and protocols must be further developed that reflect the State's consideration of the environment and the impact created by industry development. The recommended positions will fill much needed roles in biosecurity research and planning as well technology transfer and industry outreach.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

LATE

February 11, 2020

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

TESTIMONY ON SB 2729
RELATING TO AQUACULTURE

Room 229
3:00 PM

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

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 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 SB 2729, which appropriates funds for the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources and the Sea Grant College Program to support the sustainable growth of the local aquaculture industry by establishing 2 permanent aquaculture extension agent positions and 1 permanent aquaculture research position.

Hawaii's aquaculture industry farm gate value is \$76,400,000, the third-highest contribution to the economy in diversified agriculture. Hawaii's favorable climate and geography allow for inherent advantages benefitting aquaculture production.

The Legislature acknowledged the importance of Hawaii's aquaculture industry by revitalizing the Aquaculture Development Program through Act 63, SLH 2019. However, more investment and research into the aquaculture industry is needed, including investment and research into different types of aquaculture, aquaculture system optimization, economic implications of various methods of aquaculture production, and sustainable scaling methods.

Establishing positions within the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources and the Sea Grant College Program is critical to the growth of Hawaii's Aquaculture Industry.

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

