



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
and
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
February 8, 2019 at 2:30 p.m.
By
Maenette K. P. Ah Nee-Benham, Chancellor
University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu

SB 484 – RELATING TO FOOD SECURITY

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

The University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu (UHWO) strongly supports SB 484, which would appropriate funds to expand the existing educational programming in Sustainable Community Food Systems (SCFS) at UHWO to contribute to increasing food security, sustainable economic development and food system resiliency and equity in the State of Hawai'i.

The pressing social and ecological issues facing food systems today are complex and interrelated, defying single disciplinary solutions. Systematically advancing the goals of food security, resiliency and equity in Hawai'i will require educating new generations of food system professionals to think across traditional disciplinary boundaries to actively engage real-world challenges. The Sustainable Community Food System Program at UHWO provides a rich experiential, applied and multi-disciplinary undergraduate education that develops student comprehension of interrelated ecological and social issues in agriculture such that they may begin formulating meaningful responses to these challenges. Through a holistic study of the food system, the SCFS degree aims to develop highly skilled and civic-minded graduates prepared to advance the sustainable food and agriculture sector through new businesses and social enterprises, and preparing students for graduate-level training in disciplines such as Education, Hawaiian Studies, Natural Resource Management, Political Science or Urban and Regional Planning at UH Mānoa.

UHWO supports the following key provisions of SB 484:

Establishing scholarships for students to enroll in the Sustainable Community Food Systems program at the University of Hawai'i - West O'ahu. The SCFS Program at UHWO provides a world-class education to the historically underserved Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander population of West O'ahu. The SCFS program is designed to serve the NHPI population through the integrative study of traditional ecological knowledge and modern sciences with the objective of training young leaders to be stewards of the food and agricultural resources of Hawai'i over the long-term. A scholarship program for SCFS will help assist adult learners from West O'ahu to access culturally-relevant options in higher education while advancing key state sustainability, food security and resilience priorities.

Creating job opportunities and on-site training by creating positions for a full-time garden manager and part-time student assistants for the Student Organic Garden at the University of Hawai'i, West O'ahu. The Student Organic Garden has grown to be a popular and dynamic living laboratory for the entire UHWO campus. Classes in SCFS, Mathematics, Political Science, Education and Hawaiian and Pacific Studies regularly use the garden for experiential and hands-on learning. The garden serves over 1000 undergraduate and public school students each year. A permanent full-time garden manager position and part-time student employee positions will enable UHWO to continue to offer a wide range of high quality educational programming in sustainable horticulture, home gardening, cooking and nutrition.

Implementing research projects, hosting conferences, and employing additional staff and faculty as the director of the program deems necessary. To build upon prior successes in research and education, the SCFS program is seeking funding to support applied agro-ecology and food system research, promote public understanding of critical food system issues, and build the SCFS program curriculum in the fields of ecology, indigenous natural resource management and public health through the hiring of additional faculty members.

On behalf of the University of Hawai'i - West O'ahu, we thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 484, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Budget.



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII®
WEST O'AHU

February 5, 2019

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF SB 484

To Whom It May Concern:

I am in favor of SB484 Relating to Food Security.

Recent global warming related events and disasters is only a warning that we in Hawaii must take control and make sure our population has a sustainable and adequate amount of food.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Custodio

Ricardo C. Custodio, M.D., M.P.H.
Associate Professor and Chair of Health Science, University of Hawaii West Oahu
Pediatrician, Kalihi-Palama Health Center
Reede Scholar in Minority Health Policy, Harvard University

91-1001 Farrington Highway
Kapolei, Hawaii 96707
Telephone: (808) 689-2386
Fax: (808) 689-2301

An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Acting Chairperson
Board of Agriculture

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND
AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

FEBRUARY 8, 2019
2:30 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224

SENATE BILL NO. 484
RELATING TO FOOD SECURITY

Chairpersons Kim and Gabbard and Members of the Committees:

Thank for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 484, which appropriates funds for the University of Hawaii, West Oahu, to expand its existing programs and develop new means to increase food security and self-sufficiency in the State. The Department supports this bill provided it does not impact the Department's priorities listed in the Executive Budget.

The Department supports this measure as it looks to increase agricultural education at the University of Hawaii. Recent numbers have found the average age of farmers in Hawaii is over 60 years old. It is the Department's goal to reverse this trend by continuing to work with our state partners to encourage a new generation of agriculturalists dedicated to improving Hawaii's food security and self-sufficiency.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, Hawai`i 96837-0158
Phone: 927-0709 henry.lifeoftheland@gmail.com

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, February 8, 2019

TIME: 2:30 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 224

SB 484 Relating to Food Security

STRONG SUPPORT

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

Life of the Land is Hawai`i's own energy, environmental and community action group advocating for the people and `aina for 49 years. Our mission is to preserve and protect the life of the land through sound energy and land use policies and to promote open government through research, education, advocacy and, when necessary, litigation.

The University of Hawaii West Oahu has a strong agricultural program which is motivating youth, is culturally-grounded, and has established strong ties with the local agricultural community. **Please generously support the program.**

We need science-based and data-based agricultural programs like that offered at UHWO.

The 2018 Sustainable Agriculture Education Association (SAEA) Conference and the Ho‘ōla ‘Āina O Mā‘ilikūkahi Youth Food Sovereignty Congress came together at the beautiful, open, UHWO campus last summer to discuss agriculture. Funding was provided by Kamehameha Schools and the Ceres Trust.

The conference brought together skilled practitioners, knowledgeable educators, and passionate youth. Unlike many conferences, the audiovisual components in the main room and all the break-out sessions worked perfectly.

We need to produce food locally for several reasons: to reduce our trade deficit, to be prepared for a natural disaster, and to diversify the economy. But what often gets lost in the equation is even if we produced as much food as we consume, we would still be food importers because we are food exporters. Agricultural trade (imports and exports) are healthy for the economy, but often statistics include gross supply (local production and imports) and not net supply (minus exports). We need enough land to handle all our production needs to local consumption and for export.

We also need to account for lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions. Agriculture is a huge missing piece in the global equation, accounting for both production AND sequestration of greenhouse gases. In the soil-plant-atmospheric system, about 80 percent of the carbon is in the soil. Humus oxidation and synthetic fertilizers are major contributors to greenhouse gas emissions.

Mahalo,

Henry Curtis
Executive Director

SB-484

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 9:32:48 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/8/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Yoshito L'Hote	Testifying for Aina Ho'okupu o Kilauea	Support	No

Comments:

Food security is a most important aspect of our life here on an island, every effort and resources should be made available to ensure our survival in case of a disaster.

**Testimony Presented Before the Committee on Agriculture and Environment and Higher
Education**

**February 8, 2019 (2:30 p.m.)
Conference Room 224**

**By:
Jessica Kauai Fu
Community Services Coordinator at Waipa Foundation**

SB 484 - RELATING TO FOOD SECURITY.

Aloha Senators and members of the committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 484.

SB 484 Appropriates funds for the University of Hawaii - West Oahu to expand its existing programs and develop new means to increase food security, sustainability and greater food self-sufficiency in the State.

Food security and availability of locally grown food is key to the health and well-being all residents of our state and nation. As strong supporters of the SCFS Program in the UH System Waipa Foundation has partnered and hosted students on Kauai and we have seen the positive impacts that the students who go through the program have had on local food production and agriculture. There is no other program as unique at this one that holistically addresses Hawaii's food sustainability. As an organization who is committed to local food production by farming produce and kalo, producing over 50,000 pounds of poi annually, housing a weekly farmers market and community certified kitchen and poi mill, I on behalf of our foundation cannot express enough how important is it for our state to support and fund programs to increase food security and self-sufficiency.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.

Mahalo,
Jessica Kauai Fu



Board Members

President

Jason Okuhama
Managing Partner,
Commercial & Business Lending

Secretary

Marcus Kawatachi
Deputy Director,
Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission

Trina Orimoto
Clinical & Research
Psychologist

Kaipo Kukahiko
Executive Director,
KEY Project

Miwa Tamanaha
Deputy Director,
Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo

HACBED Staff

Brent N. Kakesako
Executive Director

Keoki Noji
Chief Operating Officer

Athena T. Esene
Bookkeeper & Office Manager

Will Simmons
Food Systems Specialist

Foley Pfalzgraf
AmeriCorps VISTA

Chelsie Onaga
AmeriCorps VISTA

Date: February 4, 2019

To: Senators Mike Gabbard and Donna Mercado Kim, Chairs, Senators Russell E. Ruderman and Michelle N. Kidani, Vice-Chairs, and members of the Committees on Agriculture & Environment and Higher Education

From: Brent Kakesako, Hawai'i Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development (HACBED)

Re: Support for SB484

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Kim, Vice-Chairs Ruderman and Kidani, and Committee Members,

The Hawai'i Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development (HACBED) supports SB484, which would appropriate funds for the University of Hawai'i West O'ahu (UHWO) to expand its existing programs and develop new means to increase food security and self-sufficiency in the State.

HACBED was established in 1992 as a nonprofit statewide intermediary to *address social, economic, and environmental justice concerns through community-based economic development*. It advances its mission with core competencies in the areas of community and organizational capacity building, community and economic development planning, and asset policy development and advocacy. Over time, what has rung true across the different communities HACBED has been blessed to support is the importance of choice and control in the lives of families across the state to achieve their vision for genuine wealth – and within the context of food, this has been no different. HACBED has supported a network of community-based organizations over the past four years to continue the work of restoring ancestral abundance. Under that broader framework, this loose network focused its efforts on shifting our institutions and systems tied to food and knowledge production.

A key part of that work was supporting the burgeoning Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) in Sustainable Community Food Systems (SCFS) at UHWO, “a multi-disciplinary, experiential and applied education program about key ecological and social issues in food and agricultural systems.”¹ The SCFS degree was born out of community-based organizations, like MA'O Organic Farms, who saw the need for pathways that were relevant to their communities and by extension, their youth. The BAS reflects this desire and need as well as meets existing shifts around workforce development, such as the new Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act as it “incorporates problem-based and hands-on learning to develop food system professional capable of solving real-world

¹ <http://www.uhwo.hawaii.edu/academics/degrees-and-certificates/bachelor-of-applied-sciences/food-systems/>

problems and transitioning Hawai'i agriculture toward greater ecological sustainability and social equity.”²

The SCFS program builds upon the strengths of West O‘ahu communities while also providing education and workforce solutions to community-identified needs. The SCFS program focuses on multi-disciplinary solutions to 21st century challenges including food system equity and self-sufficiency, community resilience, and dynamically responding to climate change. Graduates of the SCFS program gain critical skills in thinking systemically and bridging ecological and social issues; ideal skillsets to take on to roles at local nonprofits, foundations, agencies, and farms with an eye towards increasing equity, resilience, and self-sufficiency in their communities.

In reaching out to teachers and students in the natural resources and agriculture academies within the public high schools in UHWO’s service area, including Nānākuli, Wai‘anae, Kapolei, Campbell, Leilehua, Waialua, and Kahuku, HACBED heard resounding support for the program. The program fits with the interests of the students in those regions and their particular desire to return to their communities to support and improve them. Yet, HACBED also heard about current challenges in terms of time and resource constraints on teachers as well as the lack of support, training, and mentoring to incorporate concepts tied to food security and food self-sufficiency into their courses. Teachers also emphasized the importance of experiential learning for their students, given this feedback the SCFS program intentionally incorporates problem-based and hands-on learning, as recommended by regional teachers, to provide a relevant and rigorous learning environment for West O‘ahu students.

As such, passage of SB484 would support an institution of higher learning within a community that is hungry for these offerings and alleviate broader issues of food security and self-sufficiency by offering the following opportunities that would essentially be a systemic approach to shifting our response and actions:

- *Scholarships* – support for students to enroll at UHWO and further their knowledge of sustainable food systems;
- *Jobs & On-Site Training* – support for students to have paid, hands-on opportunities to apply their knowledge;
- *Collaborative Research* – support for staff and faculty to broaden their knowledge and that of UHWO, and by extension the students.

Increasing the ability of youth to access educational pathways within the food system while enabling families to grow their own food will build their self-sufficiency and by extension the self-sufficiency and food security for the entire state. SB484 would support programs that build these critical skills within the context of current opportunities to address systemic challenges facing all of our families statewide.

Please let me know if you may have any additional questions at (808)550-2661 or bkakesako@hacbed.org.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify,

Brent N. Kakesako
Executive Director

² Ibid.

**Testimony Presented Before the Committee on Agriculture and Environment and Higher
Education**

**February 8, 2019 (2:30 p.m.)
Conference Room 224**

**Dr. Daniel Lipe
University of Hawaii at West Oahu**

SB 484 - RELATING TO FOOD SECURITY.

Senators and members of the committees:

I write this letter as written support and testimony for SB 484.”

SB 484 Appropriates funds for the University of Hawaii - West Oahu to expand its existing programs and develop new means to increase food security, sustainability and greater food self-sufficiency in the State.

The SCFS program at UHWO is perhaps the only program within the Nation that is offering cutting edge science-based education that combines western and Indigenous science practices. When it comes to climate change and food security, we are in the midst of dealing with complex multilevel issues. Many of these issues are causing changes in our environment that we have never witnessed before including, catastrophic storms, bleaching of coral reefs, warming and freezing temperatures, melting of ice caps, and sea level rise to name a few. As an island in the Pacific we are impacted directly by many of these changes. In order to combat and stop many of these changes now and in the future, we need well educated critical thinking individuals who can approach the issues caused by climate change through diverse set of perspectives. The SCFS program is doing such work by providing students the opportunities to learn through multiple perspectives and lenses about how environments work and our connection as humans to these environments. Much of this work comes through teaching across boundaries that once isolated and separated scientific based worldviews. The SCFS program approaches education through a multilevel inclusive approach that includes educators, practitioners, scientists, policy makers, farmers, on the ground community members, and many more in order to provide individuals with the required diverse set of lenses to approach and come up with solutions to the many issues involved with climate change. These individuals are invaluable not only to the State of Hawaii but also to the nation and world at large as we seek to find a more sustainable approach to living on this earth.

There is nowhere else in the world that students are being offered science based education that integrates indigenous and western science approaches to food sustainability. If given the opportunity this program will be a leading program for producing future sustainable professionals who can work with and as educators, policy makers, and on the ground practitioners. It will be these individuals who can make a difference for all of us and our future

generations to come. I Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure and I again, strongly urge you to support this measure through passing it not only for our state and nation but also for your children and their children as well.

SB-484

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 9:42:15 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/8/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
hamutahl cohen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I very strongly support SB 484. This bill allows the University of Hawaii at Manoa to expand an existing program around food security, agricultural production, and food self sufficiency in the state.

With increasing changes to our global environment through habitat loss, climate change, and invasive species, programs such as this will help create jobs for the youth of Hawaii to address these problems and make our state a leader in the food movement.

Thank you for the opportunity to promote this bill.

SB-484

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 10:47:37 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/8/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy Brinker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

**February 8, 2019 (2:30 p.m.)
Conference Room 224**

By: Tanya Torres

SB 484 - RELATING TO FOOD SECURITY.

Senators and members of the committees:

I strongly support SB 484 because it appropriates funds for the University of Hawaii - West Oahu to expand its existing programs and develop new means to increase food security, sustainability and greater food self-sufficiency in the State. The uniqueness of the SCFS Program is very important to community and state needs. Food security and education go hand in hand with this program and tackle a state problem on the community level. Students have the opportunity to learn in a unique way and the skills they learn are forever valuable. I hope to see this program grow in the future. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.

SB-484

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 1:39:52 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/8/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Vivien Lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I Strongly support SB484. A farmer for forty years, I have researched and understand the issues around sustainability, especially as they are impacted by climate change. Since 1970, the USA has been losing farmland at the rate of 2 acres (2 football fields) a minute. From 1982 to 1997 the U.S. population grew by 17%, and urbanized land grew by 47%. That is what is happening here in Hawaii. Is urbanization, especially in Hawaii, sustainable? We have had West Oahu classes come to our farm, as well as individual student interns for a semester. This is an excellent program with top instructors. It is very important that it be expanded as much as possible. Every student, not only agriculture students, needs to understand and learn about the issues affecting sustainability. Please fund this critical and unique educational effort.

Thank you, Charles Reppun

SB-484

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 9:47:39 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/8/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
silvan shawe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in support of the SB484, and the UH West O'ahu Sustainable Community Food Systems program. As a graduate of SCFS and current Food Access Coordinator for the County of Hawai'i I can personally attest to the value of this program, for both it's students and the food security of the state. The resilience and future of the food system in Hawai'i depends on educating the next generation of leaders and Dr. Miles' vision and curriculum are an exceptional asset. The Sustainable Community Food Systems program gave me the skills, experience, and connections to be able to make impactful food systems change on Hawai'i Island, both in policy, access, and increasing food production.

Please support this bill and don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Mahalo piha,

Silvan Shawe

808-419-1016

silvan.shawe@hawaiiicounty.gov

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

**February 8, 2019 (2:30 p.m.)
Conference Room 224**

**By:
Brian Jahn**

SB 484 - RELATING TO FOOD SECURITY.

Aloha senators and members of the committees:

Thank you for taking this time and giving me the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 484. SB 484 Appropriates funds for the University of Hawaii - West Oahu to expand its existing programs and develop new means to increase food security, sustainability and greater food self-sufficiency in the State.

I am currently a student enrolled in my second semester of the Sustainable Community Food System (SCFS) program at UHWO. This is a program unlike any that I have heard of in Hawai'i. The aim of the program is to find more economically, sustainable options to increase food security for those residing in the islands. We are currently importing up to 90 percent of our food from the continental United States and other places to sustain the residential population, as well as a large influx of tourists. Due to the nature of our location, we are at risk of being cutoff from the world that provides our food at any moment. If a natural disaster, such as an earthquake, tsunami, or hurricane were to occur, as it has already in Haiti, Puerto Rico, and here in Hawai'i, our ports and other systems that ensure food delivery might be destroyed. This situation leaves us vulnerable to high malnutrition rates, and possibly deaths from starvation. As a combat veteran who has deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, I can attest to the chaos that ensues when food access and/or security is even slightly limited to a population; violence and theft occur immediately.

The SCFS program looks at ecological, economic, political, and social issues that threaten food security and equity within the food system, and shares knowledge across many different scientific disciplines to work toward realistic, sustainable goals. I have already been able to take what I am learning and apply it to an afterschool program that shows middle school-age children ways to cultivate and grow food, and my goal is to instill a conservative mindset and responsible ethic of resource management in our keiki. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.

Me ke aloha,

Brian Jahn

SB-484

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 2:57:34 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/8/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephanie Manera	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill and I do hope it helps many in the community who need this support. Mahalo.

SB-484

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 10:22:13 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/8/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelsey Amos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB 484. The SCFS program at UHWO is an incredibly important program in our state. It provides students from the local community the opportunity to be a part of growing a sustainable food system here in Hawai'i. I strongly support more funding going to this incredible program. This is urgent and important work. Thanks for the opportunity to testify in support. aloha.

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

**February 8, 2019 (2:30 p.m.)
Conference Room 224**

**Albie Miles, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Sustainable Community Food Systems
University of Hawai'i – West Oahu**

SB 484: RELATING TO FOOD SECURITY.

Senators Gabbard, Ruderman, Mercado Kim, Kidani and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 484.

I am an Assistant Professor and founding director of the Sustainable Community Food Systems (SCFS) Program at the University of Hawai'i, West O'ahu (UHWO). I received my Ph.D. in Environmental Science, Policy and Management (ESPM) from UC Berkeley, and have worked in the field of agroecology and sustainable food systems for the last 15 years. My research and publications explore the relationship between farming system biodiversity and ecosystem services from agriculture, and the structural obstacles to more sustainable food and farming systems. In addition to my time in the UH System have worked at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome, Italy and the Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems at UC Santa Cruz (CASFS).

A sustainable community food system is one in which producers, retailers, community members and governmental and non-governmental organizations partner to create a vibrant and resilient local food economy where the environmental, economic, and social health of a particular place is enhanced and sustained over the long term. Developing more sustainable community food systems for Hawai'i represents an opportunity to create a new food economy that integrates the objectives of job creation, economic development, land stewardship, food security, environmental protection, and climate change resiliency with community health and well being.

The UHWO SCFS Program prepares students for jobs in the sustainable food and agriculture sector in Hawai'i and beyond. SCFS is a multi-disciplinary, experiential and applied education program about key ecological and social issues in food and agricultural systems. It incorporates problem-based and hands-on learning to develop food system professionals capable of solving real-world problems and transitioning Hawai'i agriculture toward greater ecological sustainability and social equity through work in farming, policy-making, planning, business, social-enterprise, research and education.

I strongly endorse the passage of this bill in support of the Sustainable Community Food Systems Program for the following reasons:

- **Uniqueness of the SCFS Program:** SCFS is the premier trans-disciplinary sustainable food systems program in the University of Hawai'i System.
- **Strong community support:** SCFS is strongly supported by key native Hawaiian serving organizations and institutions such as MAO Organic Farms and Kamehameha Schools.
- **A rapidly growing program serving a significant percentage of native Hawaiian students (40%).**
- **SCFS complements existing UH CTAHR programming and advances [UH Executive Policy 4.202](#):** SCFS provides innovative course work, outreach and research focused on ecological sustainability, food security, climate change resilience and social equity in the food system.
- **The SCFS Program has been recognized for its national leadership in sustainable food systems education and research** by the Elsevier Atlas Award Committee, the Inter-institutional Network on Agriculture and Food System Sustainability (INFAS), the USDA Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions Program, the Sustainable Agriculture Education Association, and the Arizona State University Global Institute of Sustainability (GIOS).
- **Contributes to advancing community, state, national and international sustainability goals** by providing higher education opportunities focused on creating new food economies that enhance economic development, sustainable land stewardship, food security, environmental protection, climate change resiliency and community health and well being.
- **Demand for SCFS graduates:** Over 90% of SCFS graduates work in the food and agriculture sector through for-profit, government and social enterprises.

If passed, SB 484 will have a significant and positive impact on the SCFS Program, its students and the community.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.



Albie Miles, Ph.D. □

Assistant Professor, Sustainable Community Food Systems □ University of Hawai'i, West O'ahu

91-1001 Farrington Highway

Kapolei, Hawai'i 96707

E-mail: albie@hawaii.edu

Office: D-221

Phone: 808-689-2376

310-902-0531 (mobile) □

SB-484

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 3:54:56 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/8/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hunter Heavilin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senators and members of the committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB 484.

SB 484's appropriation of funds for the University of Hawaii - West Oahu to expand its existing programs will facilitate the development of new means to increase food security, sustainability and greater food self-sufficiency in the State of Hawaii.

The UHWO Sustainable Community Food Systems program is unique within the UH system in its cross-disciplinary mix of policy and practice training for the leaders of our future food system. The expansion of its programming will support the ability of SCFS to meet the needs and goals of our communities, state, and globe.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.

Aloha nui loa,

Hunter Heavilin

SB-484

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 5:14:57 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/8/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Debbie Millikan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

**February 8, 2019 (2:30 p.m.)
Conference Room 224**

**By:
Marc Ouye**

SB 484 - RELATING TO FOOD SECURITY.

Senators and members of the committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 484.

SB 484 Appropriates funds for the University of Hawaii - West Oahu to expand its existing programs and develop new means to increase food security, sustainability and greater food self-sufficiency in the State.

Like most kids growing up here, I learned about the ahupua'a system, the cultivation of taro in lo'i, and the coastal fish ponds from an early age. However, it was not until much later did I begin to really understand their significance. Even after having graduated from college, I had little interest in how the food I ate was produced. Over the years, however, I became increasingly concerned with a number of issues including the rapid pace of environmental degradation, the proliferation of chronic illnesses, and the growing instability in both the social and economic systems. My search for possible solutions to these seemingly unrelated issues ultimately lead me to develop a deep interest in organic agriculture.

After participating in several workshops and on-farm work exchanges, I decided to return to school. In the fall of 2013, I enrolled in the Tropical Plant and Soil Science Department at UH Manoa. Midway through my final year there, I learned of UH West Oahu's recently established SCFS Program. With the approval and support of my academic advisor, I chose to fulfill my last elective course requirements with an SCFS course. I enrolled in SCFS 320: Theory and Practice of Sustainable Agriculture with Dr. Albie Miles. Our class met twice a week: one day in the classroom to cover theory and one day in the student garden to apply those theories and see them in practice. This emphasis on experiential and participatory learning is a key characteristic designed into the department's curriculum. Another aspect that stood out to me was the interdisciplinary and integrative approach of the course. It broke down the boundaries that separated the different areas of specialization covered in my previous coursework, helping to tie them all into a single comprehensive framework that could be applied in real world situations. I found it to be the ideal capstone course and I strongly recommended it to both my academic advisor and my fellow students at UH Manoa.

I'd also like to express how very fortunate we are to have Dr. Miles here with us building this program from the ground up. His deep understanding and passion for the subjects he teaches were clearly evident throughout the course but it was not until a few months after the semester had ended, when I attended a conference hosted at his alma mater and heard stories about his legendary feats from the local farmers, did I begin to truly appreciate all the experience and wealth of knowledge he brings to our local community.

Because of its rich history and culture, both of which are deeply rooted in sustainability and care for the land, Hawaii has an opportunity to serve as a model, not just for the rest of the country, but also for the world. Numerous studies, including several initiated by the State of Hawaii, have clearly established the need for increased local agriculture production. These studies have time and again reported on the significant economic and social benefits of such increases, outlining a clear case for investment towards these goals. Given the proper support, the SCFS Program at UH West Oahu can continue to be a key driver in enhancing our local food systems and leading us to a more sustainable future.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.

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

**February 8, 2019 (2:30 p.m.)
Conference Room 224**

**By:
Natalie Kahiau Kauluwehi
Fall 2018 graduate in Sustainable Community Food Systems – UH West O‘ahu**

SB 484 - RELATING TO FOOD SECURITY.

Senators and members of the committees:

I write to you in strong support of SB 484. As a kama‘aina of the Wai‘anae Coast, Hawai‘i’s isolation and dependence on imported foods made me worry about the health and wellbeing of my children should an unforeseen event disrupt the timely delivery of goods to our islands. As a graduate from the Sustainable Community Food Systems (SCFS) program at the University of Hawai‘i – West O‘ahu (UH West O‘ahu), I now know that the depth and scope of this issue not only threatens our children, but also our mo‘opuna (grandchildren), their children, and their mo‘opuna. While there are no quick and easy fixes to increase our state’s food security, there is a dire need for continued education on the precariousness of such dependence, the resulting health issues of our people caused by an import-based diet, and ways we must mālama ‘āina to be sustainable and resilient in the face of climate change and other national emergencies. This can be done with the passing of SB 484, which will appropriate funds for UH West O‘ahu, allowing the university to expand existing programs and develop new means to increase food security, sustainability, and greater food self-sufficiency in Hawai‘i.

UH West O‘ahu’s SCFS program provides community engaged scholarship and experiential education where students tackle real world problems and connect to the food system in ways they may not have through textbooks and scientific journals alone. Professors in the program bridge the gap between Kanaka Maoli ‘ike and Western scientific knowledge so kama‘aina can create innovative solutions to Hawai‘i’s unique food system problems. This, in turn, raises food productivity, security, sustainability, and self-sufficiency, as well as improved economic stability as food expenditures remain within the state. Regardless if one’s passion is to be a mahi‘ai (farmer) or future political leader, graduates of this program will play a pivotal role in improving our food system. Be it a change in policies, an increase in access to agricultural land, or adding nutrition and sustainable farming classes to the public education curriculum, Hawai‘i can be the model state for resilience and self-sufficiency that we need as extreme weather events increase worldwide. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.

Sincerely,
Natalie Kahiau Kauluwehi

TESTIMONY FOR BILL SB484 FOOD SECURITY

TESTIMONY FOR BILL SB484 FOOD SECURITY

I strongly urge the legislature to rise to visionary leadership and support Bill SB 484 relating to Food Security. This is designed to move Hawaii to a more sustainable, more secure, more socially enriching, less destructive and polluting form of agriculture.

In thinking about the future of Hawaii and matters of “development,” “quality of life” and “progress towards the good of the whole” we should keep in mind the following:

- Pre-contact Hawaii was absolutely self-sufficient, supporting a comparable population to the present (See David Stannard, *Before the Horror: The Population of Hawaii on the Eve of Western Contact*) at a *higher* standard of health and well-being, by all accounts, than we are doing, and all this with a stone-age technology.
- We currently import 85-90% of our food sending over \$3billion annually out of the State. This money could be re-circulated in the State economy supporting outdoor jobs doing healthy and spiritually uplifting work in sustainable food production protecting our population in the event of disaster.
- The current model of highly centralized, corporate-controlled, fossil-fuel dependent agriculture is absolutely unsustainable. It is responsible for the loss of billions of tons of topsoil annually, polluting lakes, rivers and estuaries. It farms animals with little regard to the principle of the sacredness of all life and the quality of life of the creatures involved. In its current form it has no long term future.
- Many aspects of the quality of life on the Islands have degenerated since contact. Despite our ingenious technology, monumental wealth and advanced scientific understand our current population suffers extraordinary high levels of ill health—physical, mental and social. This ranges from type II adult onset diabetes, heart disease and cancer, to domestic violence homelessness and underemployment. Producing food ourselves in a sustainable fashion (which enriches the soil, enhance the life of our reefs and shores) would go a long way to solving these problems at their source.

. There is no good reason why, with visionary leadership, and political will the Islands could not be self-sufficient for basic foodstuffs providing security in the increasingly likely event of climate, environmental and economic disaster.

Once again I strongly urge the legislature to rise above the special interest of politics and business. Please consider the larger picture of the good of the whole extending to the next seven generations and support this legislation.

Yours sincerely,

Louis Herman PhD.

**Testimony Presented Before the Committee on Agriculture and Environment and Higher
Education**

February 8, 2019 (2:30 p.m.)

Conference Room 224

By: Puanani Apoliona-Brown

Organization: Friends of the Earth, Washington DC

Re: [SB 484](#) - RELATING TO FOOD SECURITY.

Dear Senators and members of the Committees,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 484 – Relating to Food Security. SB 484 appropriates funds for the University of Hawai‘i - West Oahu to expand its existing programs and develop new means to increase food security, sustainability and greater food self-sufficiency in the State. I applaud SB 484 as an innovative measure to increase food security by investing in Hawai‘i’s youth and ultimately its future.

I currently work on the Food & Technology team at Friends of the Earth, an environmental nonprofit based in Washington, D.C. At Friends of the Earth, I am involved with several campaigns aimed at mitigating climate change and improving public health by transitioning to a more sustainable food system that uplifts and protects communities. Friends of the Earth has made great progress through its work with schools, which I attribute to the transformative potential that schools have as centers for learning and development. I write today because UH - West O‘ahu has demonstrated a true commitment to leading such transformation in Hawai‘i, and I believe strongly in the importance of their efforts to meet Hawai‘i’s sustainability goals.

Before joining Friends of the Earth, I graduated from Harvard College with a degree in Environmental Science and Public Policy. I was awarded the 2018 Thesis Prize in Ethnicity, Migration, Rights from Harvard University for my research on Hawai‘i’s food security crisis. My field research impressed upon me the importance of local efforts, like that of University of Hawai‘i - West O‘ahu, to rebuild Hawai‘i’s food security, self-sufficiency, and environmental resilience by investing in Hawai‘i’s youth and empowering them through sustainable farming education.

In summary, the Senators and members of the Committees have an immense opportunity to make a positive impact by investing in Hawai‘i’s future. I believe the work of UH - West O‘ahu’s Sustainable Community Food Systems program is vitally important and a shining example for higher education across the United States. I encourage the Committees to support their great efforts by allocating sufficient funds to expanding and supporting programs dedicated to preparing students for jobs in the sustainable food and agriculture sector. Thank you for considering my position. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Puanani Apoliona-Brown

SB-484

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 2:28:36 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/8/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michelle Cabalse	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the funding for this program which has increased awareness of Hawaii's over-dependency on imported food and created a growing network of sustainable food production sources.

LATE

SB-484

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 5:57:40 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/8/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kevin Rathbun	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I submit my testimony in STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 484. This bill will provide essential and much needed funding for the University of Hawaii West Oahu to continue development and expansion of its Agriculture Programs. We must create our own food growth programs to lessen our reliability on imported fruits and vegetables. There are over 900 acres of prime agriculture land in Kapolei that UHWO is ready to develop and implement 21st century growth technology programs. Creating interest for agriculture programs at the primary and secondary education levels are the key to achieving independence from off island sources. we have the experts right here at home to initiate and develop food independence programs, we just need the financial support to get the programs up and running. I strongly urge passing SB 484 out of committee and move it forward.

Mahalo Nui Loa

Kevin M. Rathbun

Ewa Beach Resident

LATE

SB-484

Submitted on: 2/8/2019 12:56:51 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/8/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Raphiell Nolin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-484

Submitted on: 2/8/2019 3:13:46 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/8/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kristen Martinek	Testifying for HFUU Haleakala	Support	No

Comments:

SB-484

Submitted on: 2/8/2019 6:07:35 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/8/2019 2:30:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Genevieve N Neumann	Testifying for Lokoea Farms	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-484

Submitted on: 2/8/2019 6:13:15 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/8/2019 2:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB-484

Submitted on: 2/8/2019 6:36:42 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/8/2019 2:30:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erika Lechuga Disalvo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-484

Submitted on: 2/8/2019 7:27:05 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/8/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Autumn Ness	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-484

Submitted on: 2/8/2019 7:38:48 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/8/2019 2:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

LATE

SB-484

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 10:12:59 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/8/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keith Ranney	Individual	Support	No

Comments: