



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at 10:15 a.m.

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

HB 1711 HD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the intent of HB 1711 HD1 relating to the hiring of 3 full-time FTE positions at the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources' (CTAHR) operation on Kaua'i.

The pandemic has had a deleterious effect on the entire University of Hawai'i System, and CTAHR is not an exception. Due to retirements, resignations, and the hiring freeze CTAHR has experienced a decline in faculty and staff numbers.

During this same time, CTAHR has also been engaged in developing a strategic plan with the goal of defining the Grand Challenges for the state that is consistent with our expertise or potential expertise. This plan will determine the college's focus in the next 5-10 years. One outcome from the strategic plan will be a state-wide staffing plan, which will guide requests for hiring to the Mānoa campus administration. This is noted because CTAHR is at a stage where requests for staffing will be developed to align with the college's strategic plan.

There are, however, basic gaps in CTAHR's programs that would be helpful to be filled as the staffing plan is being developed. HB 1711 HD1 requests for 3 full-time FTE positions for the Kaua'i Research Station. In response to that request we note:

1. Any position would have to be classified as a permanent position. It can take at least 6-9 months to hire a faculty member, making a position with just annual funding not possible.
2. We currently employ a 4-H Extension Agent on Kaua'i as a temporary hire as this is an important position for the program. This bill would allow us to advertise that position on a permanent basis.

3. The bill requests that one of the positions be a Livestock Extension Agent. During the pandemic we lost the Livestock Agent on Kaua'i to a resignation for personal family reasons. This was one of the positions gained in the 2018 legislative session. We would support the hiring of a Livestock Agent if that was indicated as important in our staffing plan. But we are reluctant to identify any additional position before our strategic planning is completed.
4. Therefore, we would propose that, if the additional two positions beyond the one we are supporting temporarily were approved, that they be left open as to the nature of the hire until we can identify what would be relevant to the college's strategic positioning and our plans for Kaua'i.

In summary, the University of Hawai'i supports the intent of HB 1711 HD1 if this bill provides full-time equivalent, permanent positions. CTAHR wishes to identify the nature of these positions based on the on-going strategic planning. CTAHR understands that passage of this bill should not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Budget.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



**LATE**

CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND  
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**  
P.O. BOX 150  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE  
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND  
MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION  
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

**WRITTEN ONLY**  
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
ON  
HOUSE BILL NO. 1711, H.D. 1

**April 5, 2022**  
**10:15 a.m.**  
**Room 211 and Videoconference**

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

House Bill No. 1711, H.D. 1, appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds and establishes three full-time equivalent positions for FY 23 for the University of Hawaii's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources' Kaua'i Research and Extension Station.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



April 1, 2022

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

**Testimony in Support of HB 1711, H.D. 1, Relating to the University of Hawaii (UH) College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) (Appropriates funds to the UH to support three additional positions at the CTAHR Kauai Research and Extension Station [KARES].)**

**Tuesday, April 5, 2022, 10:15 a.m.; Conference Room 211 & Videoconference**

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers, and utility companies. LURF's mission is to advocate for reasonable, rational, and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural and cultural resources, and public health and safety.

LURF appreciates the opportunity to express its **support of HB 1711, H.D. 1.**

**HB 1711, H.D. 1.** This bill proposes to make an appropriation out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii for the CTAHR at the UH at Manoa to establish three full-time equivalent positions at the KARES, including one livestock extension agent.

**LURF's Position.** LURF understands that the ongoing outreach and research being performed for Hawaii's farmers and ranchers by the UH CTAHR has been vital in assisting to develop and improve technologies for these agricultural stakeholders, who rely on this program for success of their operations.

KARES is the sole active research and extension station on Kauai, and despite the 250-acre facility serving as home for over 20 active field and greenhouse-based research and extension projects and programs, the operation currently has only two employees. Prior to the latest freeze of positions, KARES employed five full-time staff to support and maintain all active research and extension efforts. Moreover, since the loss of Kauai's only livestock extension agent/position a year ago, practically no extension support for livestock exists on that island, despite it being proliferated with ranchers, and livestock and pastureland owners who critically need such support.

Adequate funding is therefore required to address this critical workforce shortage, as more research, outreach, and support is necessary to assist these farmers and ranchers, and to avoid damage to the profitability and long-term sustainability of local agricultural production industries.

For the above reasons, LURF **supports HB 1711, H.D. 1** and respectfully urges your favorable consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding this measure.



**Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.**  
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

**HB1711 HD1**

Relating to the University of Hawaii

Tuesday, April 5, 2022, 10:15 a.m.  
Room 211 & VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the four county level Cattlemen's Associations. Our member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of over 750 thousand acres of land in Hawaii, or 20% of the State's total land mass. We represent the interests of Hawaii's cattle producers.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports HB1711 HD1** to appropriate fund to the University of Hawaii to support three additional positions at the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources Kauai Research and Extension Station.

UH CTAHR provides important resources for Hawaii's ranchers and farmers. They have the ability and expertise to both conduct academic research and work with producers to ensure that the research matches the needs on the ground. We rely on UH CTAHR extension agents to conduct livestock workshops, give presentations, and collect data for the industry. The Kauai Research and Extension station lost a livestock agent more than a year ago, which was not refilled. In order to cover the tasks of that position, extension agents from other islands filled in, but this stretches them thin for addressing their main duties. The support of a livestock extension agent is vital for Kauai's ranchers to get access to support. Refilling this position is important to supporting the cattle industry on Kauai.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Nicole Galase  
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council  
Managing Director





Email: [communications@ulupono.com](mailto:communications@ulupono.com)

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS  
Tuesday, April 5, 2022 — 10:15 a.m.

**Ulupono Initiative supports HB 1711 HD 1, Relating to Agriculture.**

Dear Chair Deal Cruz and Members of the Committee:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food; renewable energy and clean transportation; and better management of freshwater and waste.

**Ulupono supports HB 1711 HD 1**, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawai'i to support three additional positions at the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) Kaua'i Research and Extension Station.

CTAHR Extension Service provides critical boots-on-the-ground support to local producers across the State. With agricultural expertise and hands-on support, CTAHR's extension agents provide expert advice to local farmers seeking to improve operations. Support, to name a few items, can include crop selection and varieties, soil health, invasive species mitigation and control, crop techniques such as rotation or trellis, and irrigation efficiencies. By adding three positions to the Kaua'i Research and Extension Station, the State is directly supporting the future success of local producers on the island.

As Hawai'i's local food issues become increasingly complex and challenging, organizations need additional resources and support to address and overcome them. We appreciate this committee's efforts to look at policies that support local food production.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata  
Director of Government Affairs

*Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i*





P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759  
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April 5, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**TESTIMONY ON HB 1711, HD1**  
RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Conference Room 211 & Videoconference  
10:15 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

**The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports HB 1717, HD1**, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawai'i to support three additional positions at the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources Kauai Research and Extension Station.

The excellent work performed by UH CTAHR for Hawai'i's farmers and ranchers cannot be overstated. The ongoing outreach and education are unparalleled in the State. Farmers and ranchers rely on this program for their very success. CTAHR has helped develop and improve agricultural technologies pertinent to Hawai'i's farmers. This includes intensive cover crop research, promoting the importance of locally grown produce, developing biological and cultural methods for controlling pests without chemicals, and the use of biological nitrogen fixation to significantly increase the production of high protein foods while at the same time reducing the need for commercially produced fertilizers.

On Kauai, CTAHR has one active Research and Extension Station (KARES). This 250-acre facility is currently home to over 20 active field and greenhouse-based research and extension projects, each intended to inform or aid our local farming community. For example, current projects include variety trials of breadfruit, sweet potato, ornamentals, turmeric, vegetables, and dwarf coconut to determine optimal cultivars for Kauai and Hawai'i. Work is being done to find management options for papaya root rot. A long-term culturally-significant taro cultivar collection is maintained at the Station. Work is underway with pasturing goats and forage crops. The list goes on. In addition, KARES provides a

home for the Kauai Invasive Species Committee (KISC), for the Kauai Master Gardener Program, and aids the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and Kauai Search and Rescue with their community-focused efforts.

Prior to the latest freezing and sweeping of positions, KARES had 5 full-time staff who maintained that supported all active research and extension plot allocations at the Station. They are now down to only two employees. Not having enough good people in the frozen or swept roles is very harmful to the continuity of agriculture extension and research efforts on Kauai, and our ability to serve the agricultural community.

Kauai also currently has a near void in extension support for livestock, since losing their livestock extension agent/position roughly a year ago. Kauai abounds with ranchers and owners of livestock or pastureland who have questions and need answers and support. Refilling this position is critical to the long-term support of ranching and animal husbandry on Kauai.

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



# HAWAII CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

In Support of HB1711 HD1  
Relating to the University of Hawaii

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Date: Tuesday, April 5, 2022  
Time: 10:15am  
Place: Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the committee:

Thank you for allowing the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association the opportunity to provide testimony in **support** of HB1711 HD1, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii to support three additional positions at the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources Kauai Research and Extension Station.

UH CTAHR provides unparalleled support to Hawaii's farmers and ranchers. The program has helped develop and improve significant agricultural technologies that have been critical to farmers' success. Restoring the three additional positions at the Kauai Research and Extension Station will ensure continuity of the agricultural extension and research efforts on Kauai and better serve the agricultural and ranching community.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in support of HB1711 HD1. If you have any questions, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Pono Chong  
Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

*The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association is a Hawaii-based non-profit organization that promotes modern agriculture to help farmers and communities succeed. Through education, collaboration, and advocacy, we work to ensure a safe and sustainable food supply, support responsible farming practices, and build a healthy economy.*

**HB-1711-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2022 9:59:21 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2022 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
J Ashman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass HB 1711 HD1. Thank you.

**HB-1711-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2022 10:57:02 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2022 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Frederick M. Mencher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

April 5, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**TESTIMONY ON HB 1711, HD1**  
RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Conference Room 211 & Videoconference  
10:15 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

**I support HB 1717, HD1**, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawai‘i to support three additional positions at the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources Kauai Research and Extension Station.

The excellent work performed by UH CTAHR for Hawai‘i’s farmers and ranchers cannot be overstated. The ongoing outreach and education are unparalleled in the State. Farmers and ranchers rely on this program for their very success. CTAHR has helped develop and improve agricultural technologies pertinent to Hawai‘i’s farmers. This includes intensive cover crop research, promoting the importance of locally grown produce, developing biological and cultural methods for controlling pests without chemicals, and the use of biological nitrogen fixation to significantly increase the production of high protein foods while at the same time reducing the need for commercially produced fertilizers.

On Kauai, CTAHR has one active Research and Extension Station (KARES). This 250-acre facility is currently home to over 20 active field and greenhouse-based research and extension projects, each intended to inform or aid our local farming community. For example, current projects include variety trials of breadfruit, sweet potato, ornamentals, turmeric, vegetables, and dwarf coconut to determine optimal cultivars for Kauai and Hawai‘i. Work is being done to find management options for papaya root rot. A long-term culturally-significant taro cultivar collection is maintained at the Station. Work is underway with pasturing goats and forage crops. The list goes on. In addition, KARES provides a home for the Kauai Invasive Species

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Prior to the latest freezing and sweeping of positions, KARES had 5 full-time staff who maintained that supported all active research and extension plot allocations at the Station. They are now down to only two employees. Not having enough good people in the frozen or swept roles is very harmful to the continuity of agriculture extension and research efforts on Kauai, and our ability to serve the agricultural community.

Kauai also currently has a near void in extension support for livestock, since losing their livestock extension agent/position roughly a year ago. Kauai abounds with ranchers and owners of livestock or pastureland who have questions and need answers and support. Refilling this position is critical to the long-term support of ranching and animal husbandry on Kauai.

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

Sincerely,

Frederick M. Mencher

**HB-1711-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2022 11:06:58 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2022 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Randy Cabral	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly support

**LATE**

**HB-1711-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2022 1:51:51 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2022 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Laurie Ho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha and Mahalo for the opportunity to strongly support HF1711 HD1. In line with the state of Hawaii moving forward with supporting "local" and Hawaiian "agriculture" I would humbly ask this committee to support funding for positions left vacant by retirement and employee relocation. Help us to continue "researching" and "assisting" our agricultural efforts to provide food to the people of Hawaii. Respectfully submitted, laurie ho