

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 HIGHER EDUCATION
AND
AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

**MARCH 23, 2022
1:30 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224 & VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1717 HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairpersons Kim, and Gabbard, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1717 HD1. The bill appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii to establish a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program and requires a report to the Legislature. Diversified agriculture in Hawaii could benefit from a small equipment pilot program that would be appropriate for the small acreage and terrain characteristic of farms in Hawai'i. The Department supports the intent of this bill, but otherwise defers to the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture about the goals, budget, and report to establish the pilot program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education and
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Wednesday, March 23, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.

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

HB 1717 HD1 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the intent of HB 1717 HD1 but not in its present form.

Hawai'i agriculture will benefit from the incorporation of smaller equipment that matches the limited acreage indicative of many farms in the state. It must first be understood that CTAHR does not have the knowledge or capacity to accomplish the goals outlined below since it no longer has an Agriculture Engineering program. CTAHR provides the following evaluation and comment to address the specific goals of HB 1717 HD1:

1. Identify and purchase foreign agricultural technology, including but not limited to small equipment tractors and retrofit engines, which will benefit the State's farmers and ranchers and comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's emission standards.

It is CTAHR's understanding that such equipment does not exist currently, which is the reason that such equipment is not currently in use. The expectation of what type of equipment to consider is quite open-ended, and the success of HB 1717 HD1 would benefit from a more specific charge.

2. Establish contact with manufacturers of small equipment in Japan and other countries.

This is certainly possible; in fact, CTAHR's Extension program has done some years ago in response to previously expressed interests. Contacts with

manufacturers would have to be re-initiated, and an interpreter would have to be hired and probably an intermediary company would have to be subcontracted. This not the type of thing that a college does, but is more appropriate for an industry in the state.

3. Work with the United States Environmental Protection Agency to identify federal Environmental Protection Agency standard and compliance requirements for small foreign agricultural equipment.

From past experience, this would be necessary in order to import any equipment. One option that has not been considered, is for the state to pay one or more of these companies to retrofit equipment prior to exporting to Hawai'i and having it pre-approved for import. It would be a reasonable approach given the inventors of the equipment are the most knowledgeable and the mechanics/machinists in county may be able to make the adjustments. This would also overcome the limitation that CTAHR does not have the expertise to do that type of work.

4. Collaborate with agriculture and agricultural professionals from foreign countries on management practices.

Management practices using equipment is often well-known. We see this objective as one that could be dropped from the bill. It might be better expressed as training for the use of equipment. See below for training issues.

5. Bring harvesting, weed management, and field preparation machinery into the State of Hawaii for evaluation.

This is consistent with #1 above. The questions are harvesting of what? What type of weed management? What nature of field preparation? The open-endedness is seen as a problem.

6. Conduct on-farm trials to evaluate the efficacy and applicability to multiple growing systems (e.g. wetland conventional, organic, forage crops, etc.) statewide.

CTAHR assumes that this refers to how the new equipment is used in different systems.

7. Conduct education and training workshops statewide to update agriculture producers on available technology.

This is the mission of Cooperative Extension in CTAHR. It is one of the charges being given that CTAHR has the capacity to do and which meets our mission.

Limitations of HB 1717 HD1 in its current form and comments on changes:

1. CTAHR does not currently have the staff expertise to accomplish most of this.
2. The goals as stated are multi-year operation goals and a one-year budget will not meet the stated objectives. It is not clear if the plan is to provide a multi-year budget in subsequent legislatures.
3. The bill identifies CTAHR and mentions the inclusion of a community college, but does not identify the community college that has an appropriate program. The bill needs to be specific about the community college. That would allow the community college to provide input to the bill's language and budget needs. It also needs to highlight the duties that the community college has relative to this bill.
4. A budget is not proposed to accomplish those goals.

The goals outlined in this bill would require a budget that includes the following categories:

1. Adequate staff for a multi-year program in CTAHR and in the community college once the community college and its role are identified; or more appropriately the option to subcontract a consulting firm to do this.
2. Significant funding for the purchase of equipment and its shipping to Hawai'i.
3. Significant funding for the retrofitting of the equipment either here or in the country of origin.
4. Travel funds (assuming COVID-19 does not become a limitation of travel) in order to find and evaluate the applicability of equipment in foreign countries.
5. Training for CTAHR personnel in the operation of the equipment, probably in the country of origin.
6. Funding for the community college that will participate in the program once their involvement is defined. A successful program would require that individuals receive training in the repair and maintenance of such equipment if it's distinctly different from what is currently available in Hawai'i.
7. Additional operating expenses necessary to meet this goal.

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of HB 1717 HD1, but notes that there is much to be concerned with in its present form. Its objectives are well beyond a one-year budget. A more reasonable approach would be to define a bill that does a survey of the

needs, identifies the location of equipment, investigates the issues related to bringing equipment into the state, and develops the overall plan to accomplish the overall objective. The actual process could be left to a budget from next year's legislature.

In addition, we support the intent, but not the current form of this bill, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Budget.



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e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

March 23, 2022

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

TESTIMONY ON HB 1717, HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
1:30 PM

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

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 establish a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program.

As the demand for agriculture labor continues to increase, while the availability of labor decreases, farmers and ranchers continue to look for alternative means to operate their farms through technology, like small equipment tractors. A limited number of weed management solutions and the increase in labor cost have made weed management a major challenge for many small farmers in Hawai'i. Many small farmers also have a need for smaller harvesting and field prep equipment that is not readily available in Hawai'i. These growers include vegetable crops, wetland crops, and livestock forage crops. There is a need to identify high technology small equipment and evaluate its applicability for Hawai'i's diverse agriculture systems.

Countries such as Japan have small equipment that is suitable for Hawai'i's small farmers, however, the engines that are attached to small equipment from foreign countries like Japan are not in compliance with EPA standard regulations. This pilot program would help identify desired small equipment as well as finding solutions that would allow Hawai'i farmers to import foreign equipment that complies with EPA standards.

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

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



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 COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT AND
HIGHER EDUCATION
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 1717, H.D. 1

March 23, 2022
1:30 p.m.
Room 224 and Videoconference

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

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

House Bill No. 1717, H.D. 1: appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds for FY 23 for the University of Hawai'i's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources; establishes the foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program; and requires a report to the Legislature.

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.



March 17, 2022

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Higher Education

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Support of HB 1717, H.D. 1, Relating to Agriculture (Appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii to establish a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program; requires a report to the legislature.)

Wednesday, March 23, 2022, 1:30 p.m., in Conference Room 224 & 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 1717, H.D. 1** and of the various agricultural stakeholder groups who defend the goals of viable agricultural operations and the conservation and protection of agriculture, including important agricultural lands (IAL) in Hawaii.

HB 1717, H.D. 1. This bill appropriates funds to the college of tropical agriculture and human resources, to work in collaboration with a University of Hawaii system community college, to establish a pilot program to identify and purchase foreign agricultural technology, including small equipment tractors and retrofit engines to comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's emission standards, which is vital to farmers and ranchers who must resort to alternative means and technology to operate their farms due to the increase in demand for unskilled labor.

LURF's Position. LURF members include farmers and ranchers who own, maintain, and engage in agricultural enterprises, and who consider such assistance immensely helpful, if not critical to the conduct of their operations and to help sustain their businesses.

The purpose of this bill is consistent with the underlying intent and objectives of the IAL laws (Hawaii Revised Statutes, Sections 205-41 to 52), which were enacted to fulfill the mandate in Article XI, Section 3, of the Hawaii State Constitution, "to conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, increase agricultural self-sufficiency and assure the availability of agriculturally suitable lands."

LURF therefore appreciates the objective of HB 1717, H.D. 1, which is to support agriculture and provide needed assistance to agriculture-related or agribusinesses operations. Passage of the long-awaited IAL legislation would be meaningless without implementation of such measures. The establishment of the foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program is critically needed to help support viable agricultural activity in this State.

By recognizing the need to assist the local agriculture industry and the significance of implementing incentives and measures which help to support the growth and maintenance of agriculture in the State, this bill significantly helps to promote economically viable agriculture and food self-sufficiency in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of this measure.



THE SENATE
THE THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2022

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

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

NOTICE OF HEARING

Wednesday, March 23, 2022 1:30 PM
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

HB1717 HD 1 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE: Appropriates funds to establish a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program.

My name is Eric S. Tanouye and I am the President for the Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association. HFNA is a statewide umbrella organization with approximately 300 members. Our membership is made up with breeders, hybridizers, propagators, growers, shippers, wholesalers, retailers, educators, and the allied industry, which supports our efforts in agriculture.

The Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association (HFNA) **SUPPORTS House Bill 1717 HD 1**

It is always important for an industry to embrace change and innovation to stay relevant and efficient. This bill will help to improve the abilities of our Nurserymen and women to become more competitive in production and possibly more efficient with workforce.

If you have any questions at this time, I would be happy to discuss them and can be reached by phone at 808-959-3535 ext 22, cell 960-1433 and email eric@greenpointnursery.com.

Supporting Agriculture and Hawaii,

Eric S. Tanouye
President

Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association



HAWAII CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

In Support of HB1717 HD1
Relating to Agriculture

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senate Committee on Higher Education

Date: Wednesday, March 23, 2022
Time: 1:30pm
Place: Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

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

Thank you for allowing the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association the opportunity to provide testimony in **support** of HB1717 HD1, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii to establish a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program and requires a report to the Legislature.

Many farmers and ranchers need new technology to service their small farms, including vegetable crops, wetland crops, and livestock forage crops. There is a need to identify small equipment and evaluate its applicability for Hawaii's diverse agriculture systems. Although the equipment exists other places, such as Japan, it is not readily available in Hawaii due to EPA regulations. This pilot program would help identify desired small equipment as well as finding solutions that would allow Hawaii farmers to import foreign equipment that complies with EPA standards.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in support of HB1717 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-1717-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 3:37:37 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/23/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Shaheen Mulkern	Testifying for Mulkern Landscaping & Nursery	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I suport HB1717. As the demand for agricultural labor grows and the labor forces dwindles, farmers and ranchers are looking for ways to through technology. This means equipment that can be operated by few hands.

As the demand for agriculture labor continues to increase, while the availability of labor decreases, farmers and ranchers continue to look for alternative means to operate their farms through technology, like small equipment tractors.

Countries such as Japan have small equipment that is suitable for Hawai'i's small farmers, however, the engines that are attached to small equipment from foreign countries like Japan are not in compliance with EPA standard regulations. This pilot program would help identify desired small equipment as well as finding solutions that would allow Hawai'i farmers to import foreign equipment that complies with EPA standards.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Susan Mulkern



67-332 Kaiea Pl.
Waialua, HI 96791-9501
808-383-4481
www.NSEVP.org

March 18, 2022

House Committee on Agriculture and the Environment

Wednesday March 23, 2022, 1:30 pm

SUBJECT: Support for HB 1717 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Dear Chairs Gabbard, Mercado Kim, Vice-Chairs Nishihara, Kidani, and members of the Committee:

On behalf of the North Shore Economic Vitality Partnership (North Shore EVP), I would like to extend our full **support of HB 1717**, which would appropriate funds to the College of Tropical Agriculture & Human Resources to identify and purchase foreign agricultural technology and equipment that will benefit the State's farmers and ranchers

North Shore EVP was formed in 2015 as a result of a comprehensive, community-based economic analysis that identified the need for a mid-scale regional food hub to fill serious gaps in the food supply chain and maintain agriculture as one of the pillars of the economy of the region. We currently run the state's only USDA GroupGAP food safety training and certification program that helps farmers attain their Harmonized GAP certification and allows them to access markets that require such credentials.

In our work with small to medium producers, access to both labor and machinery significantly impact the ability of these operations to increase production and become truly successful farming operations. Many of these farms are family operated and cannot afford 'employees' and are often labor constricted. Access to small equipment would provide an opportunity for these farms accomplish more work with the same number of workers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Sincerely,

Kevin Kelly
President & CEO



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

HB1717 HD1

Relating to Agriculture

Wednesday, March 23, 2022, 1:30 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Chairs Gabbard and Mercado Kim, Vice Chairs Nishihara and Kidani, and Members of the Committees,

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 HB1717 HD1** to appropriate funds to the University of Hawaii to establish a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program. Advanced technology and access to equipment is one of the keys to keeping small ranchers and farmers viable. Ranchers and farmers don't always have the capital to be able to invest in new equipment, but the University of Hawaii can leverage funds to provide information on the best equipment to utilize and evaluate its applicability across Hawaii's agricultural needs and situations. This pilot program would allow ranchers and farmers to understand options for potential equipment investments.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director





MAUI COUNTY FARM BUREAU

PO Box 148, Kula, HI 96790
mauicountyfarmbureau.org

March 23, 2022

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

**TESTIMONY ON HB 1717 HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
1:30 PM

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

I am Warren Watanabe, Executive Director of the Maui County Farm Bureau. MCFB supports HB 1717, HD1, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawai'i to establish a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program.

As the demand for agriculture labor continues to increase, while the availability of labor decreases, farmers and ranchers continue to look for alternative means to operate their farms through technology, like small equipment tractors. A limited number of weed management solutions and the increase in labor cost have made weed management a major challenge for many small farmers in Hawai'i. Many small farmers also have a need for smaller harvesting and field prep equipment that is not readily available in Hawai'i. These growers include vegetable crops, wetland crops, and livestock forage crops. There is a need to identify high technology small equipment and evaluate its applicability for Hawai'i's diverse agriculture systems.

MCFB believes that the future of Hawai'i agriculture includes the adaptation of technology to be competitive in the world market. MCFB cordially requests your support of HB 1717, HD1.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEES ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT
Wednesday, March 23, 2022 — 1:30 p.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports HB 1717 HD 1, Relating to Agriculture.

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

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 1717 HD 1, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawai'i to establish a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program and requires a report to the Legislature.

According to the 2017 USDA NASS Census of Agriculture, 66% of Hawai'i's 7,328 farms statewide, or 4,868 farms, are between 1–9 acres. In addition, 78%, or 5,701 farms, produce less than \$25,000 in sales. Since the average farmer in Hawai'i is a small farmer with limited land, it is critical for local growers to have access to farming equipment suitable for Hawai'i. Right-sized equipment can better help smaller farms develop into future medium and large-sized farms that can grow more local food.

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



MAUI
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
VOICE OF BUSINESS

LATE

**HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT and
HIGHER EDUCATION
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, SENATE CONFERENCE ROOM 224
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2022 AT 1:30 P.M.**

To The Honorable Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
The Honorable Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment
To The Honorable Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
The Honorable Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Higher Education

SUPPORT FOR HB1717 HD1 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

The Maui Chamber of Commerce would like testify in **support for HB1717 HD1** which appropriates funds to the college of tropical agriculture and human resources at the University of Hawaii at Manoa to work in collaboration with a University of Hawaii community college for a pilot program to identify and purchase foreign agricultural technology and equipment, including small equipment tractors and retrofit engines, that will benefit the State's farmers and ranchers and that complies with the United States Environmental Protection Agency's emission standards.

Historically, agriculture has been very important to our community, but it is a difficult industry to successfully start and operate. Use of technology and modernization is key. We support efforts that seek to sustain and support agriculture as the industry is currently struggling with a labor shortage, in addition to other factors. We appreciate that this bill takes a new approach to supporting the industry by establishing a pilot program to look for more efficient equipment and ensuring it is compliant with EPA regulations.

The Chamber supports pilot projects like this. While the funding is going to UH Manoa, it is important to create programs that spur additional agriculture. If this is successful, it could be brought to all neighbor islands. Equipment is a big part of reducing costs to agriculture and making it successful

For these reasons, we **support HB1717 HD1**.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap
President

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for a responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics.

HB-1717-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 7:12:46 AM

Testimony for HRE on 3/23/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Randy Cabral	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly support

HB-1717-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 3:25:55 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/23/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin Mulkern	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I suport HB1717. As the demand for agricultural labor grows and the labor forces dwindle, farmers and ranchers are looking for ways to through technology. This means equipment that can be operated by few hands.

Countries such as Japan have small equipment that is suitable for Hawai'i's small farmers, however, the engines that are attached to small equipment from foreign countries like Japan are not in compliance with EPA standard regulations. This pilot program would help identify desired small equipment as well as finding solutions that would allow Hawai'i farmers to import foreign equipment that complies with EPA standards.

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

Sincerely,

Kevin Mulkern

HB-1717-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 7:07:54 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/23/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
J Ashman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii's farms are very small in comparison to those on the mainland. The equipment that's available is not usually suited to the small acreage and plots here. This innovative bill could help provide farmers' access to farming equipment appropriate for Hawaii which could help make them more competitive and allow them to grow more food for their communities. Thank you.

HB-1717-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 11:06:04 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/23/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frederick M. Mencher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 23, 2022

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

**TESTIMONY ON HB 1717, HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
1:30 PM

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

I support HB 1717, HD1, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawai‘i to establish a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program.

As the demand for agriculture labor continues to increase, while the availability of labor decreases, farmers and ranchers continue to look for alternative means to operate their farms through technology, like small equipment tractors. A limited number of weed management solutions and the increase in labor cost have made weed management a major challenge for many small farmers in Hawai‘i. Many small farmers also have a need for smaller harvesting and field prep equipment that is not readily available in Hawai‘i. These growers include vegetable crops, wetland crops, and livestock forage crops. There is a need to identify high technology small equipment and evaluate its applicability for Hawai‘i’s diverse agriculture systems.

Countries such as Japan have small equipment that is suitable for Hawai‘i’s small farmers, however, the engines that are attached to small equipment from foreign countries like Japan are not in compliance with EPA standard regulations. This pilot program would help identify desired small equipment as well as finding solutions that would allow Hawai‘i farmers to import foreign equipment that complies with EPA standards.

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

Sincerely,

Frederick M. Mencher

HB-1717-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 5:31:50 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/23/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John R. Gordines	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 23, 2022

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

**TESTIMONY ON HB 1717, HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
1:30 PM

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

I support HB 1717, HD1, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawai‘i to establish a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program.

As the demand for agriculture labor continues to increase, while the availability of labor decreases, farmers and ranchers continue to look for alternative means to operate their farms through technology, like small equipment tractors. A limited number of weed management solutions and the increase in labor cost have made weed management a major challenge for many small farmers in Hawai‘i. Many small farmers also have a need for smaller harvesting and field prep equipment that is not readily available in Hawai‘i. These growers include vegetable crops, wetland crops, and livestock forage crops. There is a need to identify high technology small equipment and evaluate its applicability for Hawai‘i’s diverse agriculture systems.

Countries such as Japan have small equipment that is suitable for Hawai‘i’s small farmers, however, the engines that are attached to small equipment from foreign countries like Japan are not in compliance with EPA standard regulations. This pilot program would help identify desired small equipment as well as finding solutions that would allow Hawai‘i farmers to import foreign equipment that complies with EPA standards.

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

Respectfully,

Johnny Gordines



Restore the Commons

Wednesday, March 23, 2022, 1:30 pm

Senate Committees on Agriculture and Environment and on Higher Education

HOUSE BILL 1717 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Position: Support

Me ke Aloha, Chairs Gabbard and Kim, Vice-Chair Nishihara and Kidani, and Members of the Committees on Agriculture and Environment and on Higher Education:

HB1717 provides funding for the College of Tropical Ag and Human Resources (UH/CTAHR) to work with a community college building a pilot program to engage foreign parties and their small agricultural equipment for local use.

Because Hawaii's agricultural industry consists of small farmers, small properties, and numerous immigrant groups going back over a century, with a legacy of fertile connections to what the North American continent might call exotic agriculture, we are perfectly placed to build an agricultural presence far more appropriate to Hawaii conditions. Food security is a priority issue in Hawaii's immediate future, and making this connection is a far more likely approach to success than trying to import continental technologies and processes.

This pilot program should be able to demonstrate an approach far more appropriate to our small island conditions. Rather than chasing continental scales and "world-class" expensive technologies, the future around the world is actually to return to small farming intimately involved in local conditions. The potential for growing food in Hawaii has scarcely been imagined by continental minds, while the original Hawaiians were prosperous far beyond our achievements. Immigrants to these shores bring a wealth of experience, acumen, and knowledge, and this program holds the promise of timely success.

The testimony of CTAHR has raised many issues they are uniquely positioned to pursue.

Mahalo for supporting this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to address this issue,

/s/ Charley Ice, Hoa'āina; and member of the Food Security and Agriculture Committee of the Environmental Caucus; Co-chair of the Energy & Climate Action Committee of the Environmental Caucus