

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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 1844, H.D. 1

February 23, 2022
2:30 p.m.
Room 308 and Videoconference

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

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

House Bill No. 1844, H.D. 1, appropriates \$300,000 in general funds and establishes one full-time equivalent agriculture coordinator position for FY 23 for the University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources.

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.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Wednesday, February 23, 2022 at 2:30 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 1844 HD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the House Committee on Finance:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1844 HD1 relating to the University of Hawai'i that proposes a full-time agricultural education coordinator in the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR), University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

As mentioned in HB 1844 HD1, CTAHR convened the P-20 Agriculture Education Working Group and the major recommendation contained in the group's final report to the 2019 legislature was the recommendation to appoint an agriculture education coordinator. This bill is a continuing attempt to act on that recommendation.

HB 1844 HD1 states that developing the agriculture education programs and hiring the coordinator to oversee and enhance them state-wide will result in solving one of the problems associated with Hawai'i agriculture...namely the perceived lack of new farmers.

We believe that the work done by the Working Group was highly collaborative and valuable; and that the need for such a program is justified. If such a bill is passed and funded, the agriculture education coordinator would be stationed in CTAHR. Under that assumption, this would be a full-time staff position, Education Specialist, within the office of the Associate Dean of Academic and Student Affairs in CTAHR. This position would support the on-going work that already exists in CTAHR with outreach to schools within Hawai'i including:

- the Hawai'i OneAg program that includes nearly all community college and 4-year agriculture programs in the UH system,
- Gene-ius Day classes for students in grades 1-12,
- mentoring programs in grades 9-12 at Hawai'i Title I schools, and

- the Hawai'i AgDiscovery program for high school students.

However, it must also be realized that the major outcome of such a program may not be a new breed of farmers, but a much better educated electorate; with a possible interest in post-secondary education in agriculture and natural resource fields.

The CTAHR experience in new farmer training is epitomized by the GoFarm Hawai'i program. This program has for the past 8 years trained and graduated between 50 to 70 certified farmers per year, totaling more than 400 new farmers in the state. Seventy percent of these graduates remain in farming either on their own farms or are employed as farmers.

GoFarm Hawai'i has found over the years that the success of new farmers is a function of real life, hands-on training in the operation of crop production and the agribusiness of farming. All of this is packaged in a passion to do the hard work required of farming given the potentially low profit margin facing most farmers. To be successful even these new farmers need access to land, capital investment and continued education and assistance. GoFarm Hawai'i's experience is that when this is done through a classroom environment, it often does not identify those with the real passion for the job. Expectations should be realistic.

In summary, the University of Hawai'i supports HB 1844 HD1 as this fits the basic mission of CTAHR, and provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Budget.



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

Date: 02/23/2022
Time: 02:30 PM
Location: 308 Via Videoconference
Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Interim Superintendent Keith Hayashi
Hawaii State Department of Education

Title of Bill: HB 1844, HD1 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

Purpose of Bill: Appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii for the college of tropical agriculture and human resources to establish one full-time agriculture education coordinator position. (HD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports HB 1844, HD1, which appropriates funds to establish a full-time agriculture education coordinator position within the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

The Department recognizes the importance of advancing agriculture, food, and natural resources initiatives to increase career awareness, exploration, preparation, and training in K-12 schools in order to sustain Hawaii's workforce and contribute to increasing agricultural production and food self-sufficiency.

The Department is committed to designing quality agriculture, food, and natural resources programs in its schools, and this measure strengthens opportunities for the Department to collaborate, provide professional development for teachers, and support FFA (formerly known as Future Farmers of America) and agriculture, food, and natural resources students with entry into and completion of agriculture, food, and natural resources career and technical education programs at the secondary and post-secondary levels.

The Department defers to the University of Hawaii on the implementation of this position.

Thank you for allowing us to testify on HB 1844, HD1.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

FEBRUARY 23, 2022
2:30 P.M.
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1844 HD1
RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

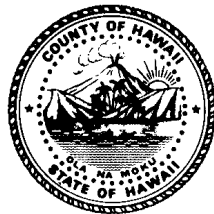
Chairpersons Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1844 HD1. The bill appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii for the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources to establish one full-time agriculture education coordinator position. The Department supports the work done by the P-20 working group to develop a coordinated framework of support for preschool through post-secondary agriculture education, a plan for implementation, and the establishment of a coordinator position. The Department recognizes the need to grow new farmers. Agriculture education can spark awareness and interest in a career in our evolving diversified agriculture industry. The Department supports this measure and defers to University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources to assess the best assignment of the Education Specialist.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



REBECCA VILLEGAS
Council Member
District 7, Central Kona



PHONE: (808) 323-4267
FAX: (808) 323-4786
EMAIL: Rebecca.villegas@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy. Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

February 22, 2022

TESTIMONY OF REBECCA VILLEGAS
COUNCIL MEMBER, HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL
ON HB 1844 HD1, RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
Committee on Finance
Wednesday, February 23, 2022 at 2:30pm

Aloha Chair Luke and Members of the Committees:

I thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1844 HD1. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the Hawai'i County Council and Chair of the Hawai'i County Council Climate Resilience and Natural Resource Management Committee.

The purpose of this Act is to support a coordinated framework for agriculture education by appropriating funds for a full-time agriculture education coordinator position at the college of tropical agriculture and human resources at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

The average age of farmers in Hawaii is sixty years and the State does not have a farming workforce large enough for expansion of cultivated agricultural lands and food production. A primary cause of the shortage of new farmers in Hawaii during the past several decades has been the decline in support for agriculture education from state government, including training for agriculture teachers. The lack of support for agriculture education has resulted in an insufficient interest in pursuing the fields of agriculture and natural resource management among youth.

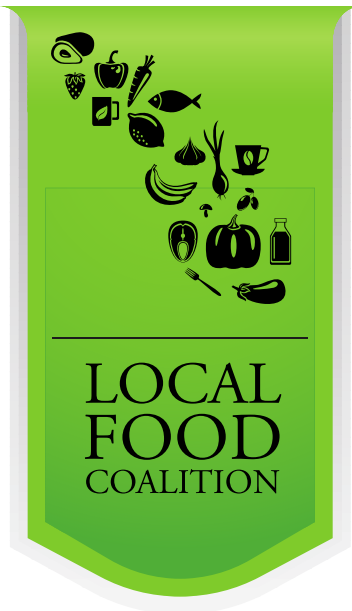
To meet the State's aspirations for increased food security and self-sufficiency, the number of local farms and farmers and the amount of food produced for local markets will need to increase significantly. Agriculture education is key to the development of future farmers and to a society that values and understands the vital role of agriculture, food, fiber, and natural resources systems in advancing personal, local, and global well-being.

For the reasons stated above I urge the Committee on Finance to support this measure as well. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 323-4267.

Mahalo for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebecca Villegas".

Rebecca Villegas
Council Member, Hawai'i County Council



Hawai'i Aquaculture & Aquaponics Association
Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council
Hawai'i Farm Bureau Federation
Hawai'i Farmers' Union United
Hawai'i Food Industry Association
Hawai'i Food Manufacturers Association
Kohala Center
Land Use Research Foundation of Hawai'i
Maui Farm to School Network (Maui F2SN)
Ulupono Initiative
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources - University of Hawai'i at Manoa

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
February 23, 2022 – 2:30 p.m. – Via Videoconference

**RE: HB 1844 HD1 – Relating to the University of Hawaii –
In Support**

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

The Local Food Coalition **supports** HB 1844 HD1, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) to establish one full-time agriculture education coordinator position.

With the average age of a farmer in Hawaii being approximately 60 years old, it is important that we develop the next generation of farmers.

One of the main recommendations that came out of the P-20 Agriculture Education Working Group's Report to the Legislature in 2019 was to establish and fund an agriculture education coordinator position to create and foster a plan for those interested in the noble profession of agriculture, in becoming our next generation of farmers. CTAHR has already proven to be successful in educating and training new farmers through its GoFarm Hawaii program. It is also important to provide agriculture education across the P-20 spectrum to create interest in this vital industry.

The Local Food Coalition is an organization comprising of farmers, ranchers, livestock producers, investors and other organizations working to provide Hawaii's food supply.

We respectfully request your support of HB 1844 HD1. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Kendall Matsuyoshi
808-544-8345
kmatsuyoshi@wik.com



Date: February 22, 2022
To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance
From: Lydi Bernal, Hawai'i Farm to School Hui Coordinator
Re: STRONG SUPPORT for HB1844 HD1, Relating to the University of Hawai'i
Hearing: February 23, 2022 at 2:30pm Via Videoconference

On behalf of the Hawai'i Farm to School Hui, thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support of HB1844 HD1**, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawai'i for the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (UH CTAHR) to establish one full-time agriculture education coordinator position.

Since the passage of Senate Resolution 80 in 2015, the Hawai'i Farm to School Hui has worked with UH CTAHR to convene the P-20 Agriculture Education Working Group for the purposes developing a **coordinated framework of support for preschool through post-secondary (P-20) agriculture education in Hawai'i**.

As outlined in the group's [final report to the 2019 legislature \(DC149\)](#) and provided for in HB1844 HD1, **the Agriculture Education Coordinator position within UH CTAHR is essential** for continuing and expanding this work to advance a coordinated statewide approach to regenerating Hawaii's community food systems through regular and equitable access to agriculture and food systems education for all students.

This bill addresses the pressing need for **immediate and sustained investment by the state in agriculture and food systems education** in order to advance Hawaii's food security and food self-sufficiency through the development of agriculture educators, future farmers, and a society that understands, supports, and actively participates in regenerating Hawaii's community food systems.

The **Hawai'i Farm to School Hui** is a statewide network comprising five Island Networks and over forty public-private entities with a collective mission to strengthen Hawaii's farm to school movement. The three pillars of successful farm to school programs are: 1) school gardens and on-campus farms, 2) food education, and 3) school food improvements through local procurement. The Hui formed in 2010 and is a program of Hawai'i Public Health Institute.

The Hawai'i Farm to School Hui appreciates this Committee's strong support of agriculture education, and respectfully requests that the Committee continue this support by passing this bill.

Me Ke Aloha,
Lydi Bernal
Hawai'i Farm to School Hui Coordinator



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

February 23, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 1844, HD1
RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Conference Room 309 & Videoconference
2:30 PM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Yamashita, 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 1844, HD1, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawai'i for the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources to establish one full-time agriculture education coordinator position.

It is commonly known that the average age of a farmer in Hawai'i is approximately 60 years old. For agriculture to be sustainable, and to produce more local crops we, as a society, must cultivate the next generation of farmers and ranchers.

The Hawai'i Department of Labor and Industrial Relations undertook a series of facilitated meetings with farmers, ranchers, educators, and a diverse group of stakeholders across the state between 2007 and 2011 to address Ag Labor. The Hawai'i Agriculture Skill Panel Report was the result of the stakeholder meetings. The report made a number of recommendations, of which several common themes emerged. #1 of those themes was "Increasing youth education and training".

In 2013, the Hawai'i State Legislature saw fit to establish the Agriculture Workforce Advisory Board via HB 749 of that year. This Board convenes, in part, to execute the recommendations of the Hawai'i Agriculture Skill Panel Report. This board established a program by which educators and school administrators can be exposed and incentivized to adopt existing broad-based agricultural curriculums. This was an important step toward the future of agriculture in Hawai'i.

In 2015, Hawai'i State Senate Resolution No. 80 requested that the UH-Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) develop an "implementation strategy and recommendations for the creation of a statewide coordinated framework of support for P-20 agriculture education, including any proposed legislation." SR 80 sought to build upon the expertise of CTAHR and create a coordinated effort to address Ag education. It bears mentioning that CTAHR currently serves on the Ag Workforce Development Advisory Board.

HFB supports initiatives that help to educate and reconnect our children with agriculture. Through agriculture education programs, our children will gain an understanding and appreciation for agriculture which will result in healthier eating habits, stronger support for Hawai'i's agriculture industry, and will contribute to Hawai'i's food security. We still have a long way to go to educate our children about agriculture. Creating an agriculture education coordinator position is another tool that will help in the education process. It is an investment to have well-informed consumers and supporters of Hawai'i's agricultural industry in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure



Date: 2/22/22
To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance (FIN)
From: Hawai'i Youth Food Council
Re: **SUPPORT for HB1844 HD1**
Hearing: 2/23/22, Wednesday, 2:30 pm

On behalf of the Hawai'i Youth Food Council, thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of HB1844 HD1**, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawai'i for the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) to establish one full-time agriculture education coordinator position.

As Hawai'i students, we believe that the establishment of a P-20 Agriculture Education Coordinator position would decrease the average age of farmers in Hawai'i while increasing food security and in-state self sufficiency. By expanding the state's capacity to train educators in the field of agriculture and food systems more students will be exposed to agriculture education and will thus have the knowledge, opportunity, and capacity to advocate for sustainable food systems and/or pursue professions in such fields.

Hawai'i Youth Food Council Member, Tyler Levine (a 17 year-old homeschool student) was given the opportunity to learn about the process of food production in elementary school through the unique lessons taught by her 6th grade science teacher. Within the living laboratory of her school's garden she participated in the cultivation of food, gaining both awareness and appreciation for the practice of working with the earth to grow sustaining connections through the catalyst of food. This experience has inspired Tyler to become a farmer so that she may plant seeds to preserve the living legacy of food sovereignty.

From the plantation era that summoned thousands of people across the world with a destination of cultivating cane fields, to the rise of specialty export crops that now employ machinery and biocides, the agricultural industry of Hawai'i has endured dramatic changes with its systematic structure. With the average age of farmers in Hawai'i being over sixty years old equating to an inadequately sized agrarian workforce, the state is faced with an obstacle limiting the attainment of aspirations for increased local food production and revenue streams.

As members of the Hawai'i Youth Food Council we believe that the position of a P-20 Agriculture Education Coordinator is crucial to the engagement and partactiaption of present and future generations in the process of transforming Hawaii's local food system.

The **Hawai'i Youth Food Council** is a program of the Hawai'i Farm to School Hui and Hawai'i Public Health Institute, and includes students from public, charter, and independent high schools across Hawai'i. The council was established in 2020 to engage and empower youth in the process of rewriting the present narrative of Hawaii's food system. Members identify and address systemic issues that exist throughout various dimensions of the food chain to promote community participation in the formation of resilient, equitable local food economies.

Thank you very much for your support of agriculture education in Hawai'i. We respectfully request that you please pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Bao Nguyen, Punahou School
BJ Miranda, West Hawai'i Explorations Academy
Chay Cunningham, Maryknoll High School
Gigi Kiyabu, Mid Pacific Institute
Grace Monaco, 'Iolani School
Hannah Apostol, Waipahu High School
Jaden Joy Rosabia, Kealakehe High School
Marianel Carmen, Maui High School
Mia Torres, James Campbell High School
Rona Lei Duldulao, McKinley High School
Tyler Levine, Oak Meadows Homeschool
Yewon Julie Jeong, Hanalani Schools



Food+ Policy Internship 2022

food@purplemaia.org

February 22, 2022

To: Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the House Committee on Finance

Subject: Testimony in **Support** of HB1844, relating to the University of Hawai'i

Aloha mai kākou,

I am writing on behalf of the Hawai'i Food+ Policy Internship to express our collective support for HB1844, relating to the University of Hawai'i.

HB1844 appropriates funds for the creation of a full-time "Agriculture Education Coordinator" position within the University of Hawai'i's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (UH' CTAHR).

While an appropriation of funds is difficult to conceive of during this time of limited budgets, we must consider what this type of legislation does for the longevity of our food system and our ability to be self-sustainable in agriculture, as well as responsible people who truly value the land.

Agriculture education, the most realistic method of creating new generations of farmers, is not a realistic, easily accessible, or desirable path for today's youth. This results in a lack of understanding the importance of food's role in society for upcoming generations. As this bill states, the average age of a farmer in Hawai'i is now 60 years old and there is currently no farming workforce large enough to sustain the expansion of agricultural systems in Hawai'i. This problem could eventually result in large agribusiness corporations importing labor forces to meet agricultural expansion demands, which would put an additional strain on local community members and subject our 'āina to even more degenerative practices for food production.

As we witnessed during the COVID-19 pandemic, food hubs and local agriculture production played an extremely important role in not only helping existing producers, but also in providing jobs in packaging, processing, and selling produce for individuals who lost tourism-based jobs; full-time employment for support roles in food hubs actually went up by 112 percent since large

The Food+ Policy internship develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2022, the cohort of interns are undergrads and graduate students from throughout the UH System. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, and Hawaiian culture.



Food+ Policy Internship 2022

food@purplemaia.org

layoffs occurred post COVID-19 introduction between March and June, 2020 (Azizi & Lincoln, 2021). This is important to understand because if current trends continue with the decline in farmers, these producers and the roles which exist to support them will no longer be there for local citizens.

As of 2014, Hawai'i spent roughly \$2 billion annually on food importation, while Hawai'i-based farms only produced about 20% of the local food supply (Kent, 2014); these costs could have been arguably lower if we were invested in more local production. Governor David Ige's agricultural goal was to double food production by 2020, however, in 2018 he realized that goal was nowhere near being reached so he changed the target year to 2030 (Terrell, 2022). If current projections are accurate, this target year will undoubtedly keep extending to the future without some intervention to actually raise the number of operational farmers in Hawai'i.

With all the current efforts taking place to stabilize the ADC and maximize the effectiveness of the Department of Agriculture, in addition to all the work being done through university and non-profit systems to devise a comprehensive plan for transforming and enhancing our food system (Terrell, 2022), the creation of this position would be a sound investment and a logical progression for increasing the resiliency and strength of our food system. While appropriating funds may be a difficult challenge, this should be seen as an important investment in our future, and a chance to restore agriculture as a realistic and viable profession for Hawai'i's people.

On behalf of the Hawai'i Food+ Policy Internship, I would like to thank Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the House Committee on Finance for considering the comments made herein.

Me ke aloha,

Ioane & the Food+ Policy Interns

References

Azizi Fardkhales, S., & Lincoln, N. K. (2021). Food hubs play an essential role in the

The Food+ Policy internship develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

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Food+ Policy Internship 2022

food@purplemaia.org

COVID-19 response in Hawai'i. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*.

Kent, N. J. (1994). *Hawaii: Islands under the influence*. University of Hawaii Press.

Terrell, J. (2022, January 1). *Why Hawaii needs to rethink efforts to increase local food production*. Honolulu Civil Beat. Retrieved February 22, 2022, from https://www.civilbeat.org/?p=1473897&utm_source=Civil%2BBeat%2BMaster%2BList&utm_campaign=2e0601795c-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2022_01_01_01_43&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_51c2dd3cf3-2e0601795c-402122405&mc_cid=2e0601795c&mc_eid=d6f3a62771

The Food+ Policy internship develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2022, the cohort of interns are undergrads and graduate students from throughout the UH System. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, and Hawaiian culture.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2022

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 23, 2022 2:30 p.m.
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Conference Room 308
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

HB1844 HD1: RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

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) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS House Bill 1844**

We have had the privilege to find that UH CTAHR specialists and agents are knowledgeable and an important tool for the nurserymen and women of Hawaii..

We ask that you support CTAHR and appropriate funds to allow for one full-time agriculture education coordinator position.

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

HB-1844-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 2:00:31 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Debbie Millikan	Oahu Farm to School Network	Support	No

Comments:

Date: Feb. 22, 2022

To: FIN

From: Debbie Millikan, Coordinator, O’ahu Farm to School Network

Re: STRONG SUPPORT for HB1844 HD1-Appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii for the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources to establish one full-time agriculture education coordinator position.

Hearing: Feb. 23, 2022 @ 2:30pm

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of HB1844 HD1 which appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii for the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources to establish one full-time agriculture education coordinator position.

In order to carry out the primary recommendation of the [University of Hawaii System Report to the 2019 Legislature \(DC149\)](#), a P-20 Agriculture Education Coordinator in UH CTAHR needs to be created. The coordinator will be instrumental in carrying out the implementation plan set forth in the report focusing on professional development for teachers and sustained curricular integration of agricultural education. In order to build a truly local and sustainable community food system, we need equitable and regular access for all students to food systems and agriculture education.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide this testimony.

HB-1844-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 6:08:35 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Chynna Chun	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support of HB1844** relating to establishing a full-time agriculture education coordinator position at the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture & Human Resources (CTAHR).

My name is Chynna Chun and I am currently am a part of Hawaii Future Farmers of America (FFA) and I am a current student at CTAHR majoring in Tropical Agriculture and the Environment (TAE).

Back in 2019, I was a high school student testifying in support of the Ag P20 coordinator position, in hopes that this position and coordinated framework would give me much needed guidance and direction on what I can do to further my post-secondary education in agriculture. Although I am fortunate to have eventually found my way to CTAHR in their only agriculture program, I know that many past FFA members have consistently expressed that if they had a coordinated framework led by an Ag P20 coordinator position back when they were in school, many of them would stay home in Hawaii to pursue agriculture instead of moving to a mainland university to pursue the same passion. Now, they are serving elsewhere, many of them no longer considering coming back home to Hawaii to advance and revitalize our agricultural industry.

This lack of Hawaii agriculturalist retention and our decreasing Hawaii farming workforce is heavily in part due to the lack of resources specifically invested in agricultural education, which most certainly includes proper training for our agricultural education teachers. How can we build up our workforce with talented and aspiring agriculturalist youth when the majority of our Hawaii youth are not exposed to agricultural education and respective pathways at an early age? How can we increase our Hawaii food security, self-sufficiency, and meet our sustainable goals when many of our growing youth still do not know where their local food comes from?

Despite this, interest in agricultural education and workforce continues to grow immensely at the middle school, high school, and college levels, but we are constantly in need of legislative support to implement a coordinated framework to expose our youth and teachers to opportunities to further our agricultural passions. Even after hitting a low in Hawaii FFA membership during the COVID-19 pandemic with only 13 chapters and less than 200 members during the 2020-2021 academic school year, we are going strong with 26 active FFA programs and 300-400+ members in this current academic school year alone.

There must be legislative support to support this growing number of students, teachers, and other constituents who have a passion to invest their talents and passions in agriculture at home. This proposed bill comes at a time where our growing youth, Agriculture, Food & Natural Resource (AFNR) teachers, local growers and farmers, and other individuals desperately need the support and resources.

Likewise, in a growingly informed generation that is becoming increasingly more passionate and louder in regards to agricultural education, our youth are constantly watching and carefully listening to the actions and words of those of high positions who have the opportunities to make great change for future generations.

Thank you for your time and I urge you all to support HB1844.

Sincerely,

Chynna Chun

HB-1844-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 7:44:21 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Michele M Weinhouse	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Michele Weinhouse and I am a public high school teacher on the island of Lanai. I would like to see Lanai more sustainable and self-sufficient. Growing my own food and teaching how to grow food is my passion. Teaching self-sufficiency and sustainability is a daunting task and this bill will help provide the resources to educate keiki about how they have the power to change Lanai's dependency on outer islands. Many of these ideas are not new but teaching them in our school is. Teachers need help, mentors and experts to educate and empower the keiki of our communtiy. This bill will provide this help.

HB-1844-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 7:55:38 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Elizabeth Hansen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a small farmer, and a registered voter in Hakalau HI 96710, I support this bill.

Mahalo

HB-1844-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 7:57:53 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rodger Hansen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a registered voter in Hakalau HI 96710, and a small farmer, I support this bill.

Mahalo.

HB-1844-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 9:07:03 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ken Kajihara	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Greetings,

As a former member of the P-20 Agriculture Education Working Group and former agriculture education teacher and program manager of the Hawaii Department of Education Agriculture Education program and its intracurricular Future Famers of America co-curricular organization, I fully support HB1844_HD1.

The working group found that there is an abundance of highly effective programs at all levels and that if coordinated, there would be greater efficiencies in exposure, immersion and career development along and beyond the P-20 continuum.

My hope is that this position will empower the University of Hawaii to achieve the vision elements in the working group's report and realize significant growth in student exposure to agriculture education, enrollment in secondary public education natural resources career and technical education (including Future Farmers of America membership), enrollment and participation in postsecondary agriculture degree and training programs, numbers of teachers trained in agriculture education, and in the numbers of food producers and food systems professionals through direct services to these constituencies.



COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

HB1844
Relating to the University of Hawaii

Wednesday, February 23, 2022, 2:30 PM
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the five 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 HB1844** to appropriate funds to the University of Hawaii for the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources to establish one full-time agriculture education coordinator position.

Agricultural education will help to develop the next generation of farmers and ranchers. We need this education to perpetuate access to opportunities in agriculture in Hawaii and to generate interest in careers that feed our communities.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director





Food+ Policy Internship 2022

food@purplemaia.org

February 22, 2022

Subject: **In support of HB1844** Relating to the University of Hawai'i

Aloha e Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the FIN Committee,

We **fully support HB1844** relating to the University of Hawai'i appropriating funds for a full-time agriculture education coordinator through their College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. Educating our keiki about the value that agriculture has in our lives, society, and economy is vital in protecting our future. The lack of agricultural education in schools has added to the disconnect present between us and our food system, furthering the younger generations from the agricultural sector, inevitably increasing the average age of farmers in Hawai'i to 60 years old. HB1844 will help to reinvigorate a respect and value for agriculture in a time when the current trend is moving into cities.

The future of farming is not secure, "the odds are that the farmers who grew the food for your next meal have the majority of their careers behind them" wrote one [article](#). We have seen that younger generations are preferring work in the cities, while sidelining agriculture. Who will grow our food in 20 years? Food security increased 50% during the pandemic and the next natural disaster or crisis would put us at more risk in the future. The question still begs, "who will grow our food when that time comes?" Some solutions involve removing the stigma around farming being a "bad" job, which can be done through constant exposure to agriculture education throughout schooling.

Our keiki spend up to 30 hours a week in school, this is where they are exposed to thousands of new concepts that they will take with them into their lives. It provides the perfect opportunity to introduce agriculture as an essential sector and viable career. When you teach these things at a young age, these perceptions become a part of their normal life, instead of having to change their behavior once they get older. We fully support HB1844 because the education of our young generations will determine if we are able to feed ourselves in the future.

Mahalo,

Kelsey Amos & the Food+ Interns

#fixourfoodsystem

The Food+ Policy internship develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2022, the cohort of interns are undergrads and graduate students from throughout the UH System. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.



House Committee on Finance

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: HB1844 HD1

Wednesday, February 23rd, 2022 2:30pm, Conference Room 308

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee,

HAPA supports HB1844 HD1, which we believe helps to provide a tangible solution to moving toward more local food production and strengthening our local food system, while supporting our local farmers and food producers, as well as our economy.

HB1844 HD1 appropriates funds to the University of Hawai'i for the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (UH CTAHR) to establish one full-time agriculture education coordinator position.

The aim of this bill is to ensure a framework of support for the goal to achieve doubling local food production. We hope that this measure will be used to help ensure every student at every age has equitable access to agricultural education, garden and farm based education and aina based experience and education.

An education coordinator position within UH CTAHR will grow Hawai'i's farming workforce and an ag-friendly society by infusing agriculture and food systems education into teacher development programs for preschool through post-secondary levels.

As the bill states, "agriculture education is key to the development of future farmers and to a society that values and understands the vital role of agriculture, food, fiber, and natural resources systems in advancing personal, local, and global well-being. During the past decade, a vibrant grassroots movement in support of agriculture education has emerged in Hawaii, along with a marked increase in new farmer training programs and student involvement in Future Farmers of America."

The more we develop a framework to help support sourcing local foods the more we support our local farmers and help our economy. When sourcing more local food we also reduce carbon emissions related to shipping and packaging waste associated with importation from the United States.

HB1844 HD1 will also support access to more culturally appropriate and nutritious foods for public school students, such as kalo, sweet potatoes and others.

Please support HB1844 HD1. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', written in a cursive style.

Anne Frederick
Executive Director

HB-1844-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 11:33:26 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ming Wei Koh	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Center for Getting Things Started strong supports HB1844 HD1 as a way to #fix out food system.

Unlike many other R-1 universities (such as UC Davis, Texas A+M), the University of Hawai‘i Manoa does not have an agriculture education program, major or certification. The work to train the workforce in this field has primarily been carried out by grassroots organizations such as the Hawaii Farm to School Hui, small non-profits in partnership with Dept. of Health, and Dept. of Education, and other smaller colleges/universities such as UH West Oahu. It is time our large state institution steps up in this work, especially around ‘āina-based teacher and curriculum development.

- This bill implements the primary recommendation of the [University of Hawaii System Report to the 2019 Legislature \(DC149\)](#) to establish a P-20 Agriculture Education Coordinator in UH CTAHR.
- The UH CTAHR Agriculture Education Coordinator will provide leadership in carrying out the Implementation Plan as set forward in the report, focusing on teacher development, curricular integration, and increasing the number of trained, paid agriculture educators at the state, regional, and school levels.
- Regular and equitable access for all students to agriculture and food systems education is key to regenerating Hawaii's community food systems to advance food security and food self-sufficiency.

Mahalo hui loa.

Koh Ming Wei, PhD.

Executive Director/Ecoliteracy Educator

mingwei@c4gts.org

HB-1844-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 1:05:55 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Michael Barros	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

February 22, 2022

House Committee on Finance

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair

Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

Honorable Chair and Committee members of the House Committee on Finance

I am writing in support House Bill 1844 HD 1 related to University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture. My name is Michael Barros, I retired from the Department of Education (DOE) in December 2017. At the time of my retirement, I was the Career and Technical State Educational Specialist. Prior moving to Agriculture Education Specialist position at the state level within the DOE, I was a classroom Agriculture teacher at Waialua High School for 10 years. I would like to share my experience with you to emphasize why I support this bill.

In 1995, I accepted a position as the State Occupational Development Section (ODS) as the State Agriculture Specialist. In 1997, as part of a required downsizing of the State DOE bureaucracy, the Occupational Development Section which was responsible for implementation of Vocational Education was eliminated. The staff included one administrator, four Vocational Educational specialist, one each for Agriculture, Business, Home Economics, and Industrial Arts. The DOE reorganized its curriculum support at the state level to address the new Hawaii Content and Performance Standards (HCPS). Vocational Education’s leadership was eliminated and replaced with one position focused on implementation of the HCPS called “Work Skills”. These standards were very board and directed for all students. I was fortunate (or unfortunate) to be the one remaining position who was tasked with implementation of the new standards as well as continue to support the existing operational structure of Vocational Education. The impact of this downsizing and elimination of the Occupational Development Section within the DOE effectively diminished classroom support for all vocational education programs in the State of Hawaii.

Since 1997, Vocational Education has undergone dramatic changes mostly influenced by funding requirements at the federal level through Carl D. Perkins legislation. Vocational Education was transformed from the traditional four programs to Career and Technical Education and a Career Pathway System. I believe that the Career Pathway System is a good framework, but very difficult to implement with limited staffing.

Staffing makes a difference. Since the downsizing in 1997, enrollment in Agriculture programs steadily declined. Lack of the ability to provide program leadership, teacher professional development, and program advocacy caused a decline in enrollment over the years. As teachers retired it was difficult to replace teachers due to the elimination of the teacher training program at the University of Hawaii, College of Education. For example, FFA membership reached an all-time low of 126 members in school year 2013-14. In 1997 membership averaged between 600 to 700 members with more than 20 active chapters.

Classroom teachers need support both in professional development (PD), coordination of FFA activities and making connection to the agriculture industry. Having the agriculture education coordinator housed at the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) will help with a natural connection for high school teacher PD and will also assist with program articulation creating an early college program of study to CTAHR. Agriculture Education is a proven program that raises expectations and student achievement. Your support for HB 1844 HD 1 will go a long way to create an effective educational program which help our youth understand the importance of Hawaii agriculture industry and support a labor pipeline for this vital industry.

HB-1844-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 9:31:27 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sam Kakazu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill because a coordinator at a UHM college has more traction to implement some of the recommendations from a 2019 UH Report to the Legislature. As a retired school counselor, I still tend to monitor these developments. My hope is that some of the career titles and respective minimum qualifications in agriculture listed on that report find their way onto websites utilized by high school and higher education college and career centers.