

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. 1844 HD2
RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII**

Chairpersons Kim and Gabbard, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1844 HD2. 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.





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

HB1844 HD2 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

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 HB 1844 HD2 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 HD2, 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 HD2 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 Hawaii supports HB 1844 HD2 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.

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. 1844, H.D. 2

March 23, 2022
1:30 p.m.
Room 224 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. 2, appropriates an unspecified amount of 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.

Written Only

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI
INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

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

Date: 03/23/2022

Time: 01:30 PM

Location: CR 224 & Videoconference

Committee: Senate Higher Education
Senate Agriculture and Environment

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: HB 1844, HD2 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. Effective 7/1/2050.
(HD2)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports HB 1844, HD2, 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, HD2.



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
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 1844, HD2
RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

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 1844, HD2, 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



SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
and
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

March 23, 2022 – 1:30 p.m. – Via Videoconference

**RE: HB 1844 HD2 – Relating to the University of Hawaii –
In Support**

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

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

The Local Food Coalition **supports** HB 1844 HD2, 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 HD2. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

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



Date: March 21, 2022

To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

From: Lydi Bernal, Hawai'i Farm to School Hui Coordinator

Re: STRONG SUPPORT for HB1844 HD2, Relating to the University of Hawai'i

Hearing: March 23, 2022 at 1:30pm Via Videoconference

On behalf of the Hawai'i Farm to School Hui, thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support of HB1844 HD2**, 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 this bill, **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 these Committees' strong support of agriculture education, and respectfully requests that the Committees continue this support by passing this bill.

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



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

HB1844 HD2: 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 HD2**

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-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 10:47:33 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ming Wei Koh	Testifying for Center for Getting Things Started	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Center for Getting Things Started strongly supports HB1844 HD1 as a way to #fixourfood 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-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 4:36:42 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
scott lacasse	Testifying for Grow Some Good	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We strongly support the establishment of one full-time agriculture education coordinator position within CTAHR.



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

HB1844 HD2

Relating to the University of Hawaii
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 HB1844 HD2** 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





LATE

**Senate Committee on Higher Education /
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment**

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: HB1844 HD2

Wednesday, March 23rd, 2022 1:30pm, Conference Room 224

Aloha Chair Mercado Kim/Gabbard, Vice Chair Kidani/Nishihara and Members of the Committees,

HAPA supports HB1844 HD2, 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 HD2 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 HD2 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 HD2. 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



Date: 3/22/22

To: Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and the Environment (AEN)

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education (HRE)

From: Hawai'i Youth Food Council

Re: **SUPPORT for HB1844 HD2**

Hearing: **2/23/22, Wednesday, 1:30 pm**

On behalf of the Hawai'i Youth Food Council, thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of HB1844 HD2**, 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 participation 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 Meadow Homeschool
Yewon Julie Jeong, Hanalani Schools

HB-1844-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 7:57:34 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Wast of Time and Money. Stop Wasting Taxe payer Moneys on Crap!!

HB-1844-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 7:58:23 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sam Kakazu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

I strongly support this bill because it creates a position recommended in the UH System Report to the 2019 Legislature, whereby, an Ag Ed Coordinator can revisit and strengthen the relationship between the UHCOE and UHCTAHR. This marriage between the two colleges will facilitate the development of P-20 curriculum, produce more ag education teachers and incentivise current HIDOE science teachers to include ag education in middle and high school course offerings.

All of the time and energy that government officials, NGOs and private citizens are expending towards the mission of building ag capacity in Hawaii is in preparation for future climate change events and troubling global diplomatic relations. Please support this bill to help make our island networks more sustainable.

Mahalo

Sam K. - retired farmer, retired HIDOE, former USDA/NASDA , Hawaii Farm to School Hui member

HB-1844-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 8:07:55 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa DeSantis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of HB1844.

HB-1844-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 9:12:05 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Crystal Robello	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Mahalo for allowing the opportunity to write in support of this bill. Food systems is an important part of Hawai'i's sustainability and future. The funding of this position will be good for the local economy and public education and awareness of food systems.

I highly support this bill and the future of Hawai'i's food sources.

Mahalo,

Crystal

HB-1844-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 9:42:46 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelly Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- I STRONGLY SUPPORT
- 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.

HB-1844-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 12:53:11 PM

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

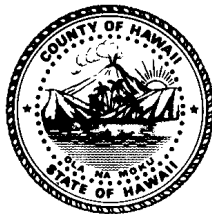
Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jesse Kealiinohomoku	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Kākou,

I stand strongly in support of HB 1844.

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

March 21, 2022

TESTIMONY OF REBECCA VILLEGAS
COUNCIL MEMBER, HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL
ON HB1844 HD2, RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
Committee on Higher Education
Committee On Agriculture and Environment
Wednesday, March 23, 2022 at 1:30pm

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

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.

I support HB1844 HD2 which supports a coordinated framework for agriculture education by appropriating funds for a full-time agriculture education coordinator position at the University of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and human resources.

Coordinated framework of support for agriculture education in Hawaii by the agriculture education coordinator and the agriculture education working group will result in an increased number of:

- (1) Students exposed to agriculture education at all grade levels in public, charter, and independent schools;
- (2) Public school students entering and completing the career and technical education agriculture, food, and natural resources career pathway;
- (3) Students entering and completing higher education programs, apprenticeships, internships, and work-based learning programs in agriculture and food systems;
- (4) Teachers trained in agriculture and food systems education; and
- (5) Local food producers and other food systems professionals.

For the reasons stated above I urge the Committee on Higher Education and the Committee in Agriculture and Environment 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.

Rebecca Villegas
Council Member, Hawai'i County Council

Hawai'i County is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

HB-1844-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 4:51:23 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrea	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha HRE/AEN Committee Members,

My name is Andrea Snow and I live, work and vote on Maui. I have worked in public schools and with community programs supporting healthy youth and families for over 10 years. I have been a school garden teacher, and now work in public health. I strongly support HB1844 to establish a full-time agriculture education coordinator position within CTAHR.

This bill is a necessary step in giving children regular and equitable access to hands-on food and agriculture education. Kids from low-income areas will especially benefit from more garden and farm-based education at school. 80% of chronic disease is preventable, but only if we know how to move and eat well, and have the opportunity to do so. If you ask any healthcare provider, they will tell you that Hawaii students need better food, health, and sustainability education. This bill will help build the foundation for better health for Hawaii students, and inspire more young people to go into agriculture and related fields at a time when we need it most: right now. Please support it.

Mahalo for your time,

Andrea Snow

HB-1844-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 5:55:38 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Suzanne Fields	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of HB1844 HD2 - I STRONGLY support this bill.

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. This initiative will also provide a pathway for students to consider agriculture as a career path and thereby help the State to make the progress that is sorely needed to ensure sustainable agriculture and an affordable food future for Hawaii.

Regards,

Suzanne Fields, M.S.P.H.

Haiku, Maui