



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education and Technology
Wednesday, February 16, 2022 at 2:00 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 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Clark, and members of the House Committee on Higher Education and Technology:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1844 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, 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 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 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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION & TECHNOLOGY
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 1844

February 16, 2022
2:00 p.m.
Room 309 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 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.

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 HIGHER EDUCATION & TECHNOLOGY

FEBRUARY 16, 2022
2:00 P.M.

CONFERENCE ROOM 309 & VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1844
RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chairpersons Takayama and Members of the Committee:

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



HB-1844

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 8:22:23 AM

Testimony for HET on 2/16/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ming Wei Koh	Center for Getting Things Started	Support	No

Comments:

Center for Getting Things Started (C4GTS) strongly supports HB1844 as a way to #fixourfoodsystem.

- 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. C4GTS executive director, Dr. Koh was a large part of developing this report.
- 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. Unlike other R-1 schools, UH does not have any agriculture education majors or certifications.
- 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 role is needed to liasion with the Dept of Education.

Mahalo piha

Koh Ming Wei, PhD

Executive Director/Ecoliteracy Educator

mingwei@c4gts.org

HB-1844

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 1:43:19 PM

Testimony for HET on 2/16/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Zoe	Mala'ai	Support	No

Comments:

- 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.



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 16, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION & TECHNOLOGY

TESTIMONY ON HB 1844
RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Conference Room 309 & Videoconference
2:00 PM

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice-Chair Clark, and Members of the Committee:

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

The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports HB 1844, 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.

It is commonly known that the average age of a farmer in Hawaii 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 Hawaii 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 Hawaii 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 Hawaii 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 Hawaii 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 Hawaii.

In 2015, Hawaii 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 Hawaii’s agriculture industry, and will contribute to Hawaii’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 Hawaii’s agricultural industry in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure



COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY
Rep. Gregg Takayama, Chair
Rep. Linda Clark, Vice Chair

HB1844
Relating to the University of Hawaii

Wednesday, February 16, 2022, 2:00 PM
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Clark, 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 15, 2022

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

Aloha e Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Clark, and Members of the HET 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.

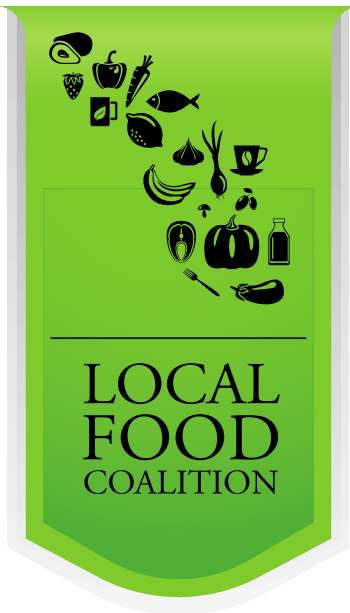
Mahalo,

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.



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 HIGHER EDUCATION & TECHNOLOGY

February 16, 2022 – 2:00 p.m. – Via Videoconference

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

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Clark and Members of the Committee:

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

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



Hawaii FFA
94-1211 Farrington Hwy
Waipahu, HI 96797



To whom it may concern,

Aloha, my name is Sean Valencia, the State Reporter of Hawaii FFA and a Junior from Waipahu High School. I am testifying in support of HB1844, providing funds to UH CTAHR to establish one full-time agriculture education coordinator position. It is necessary to create a position in which an individual can create programs or curriculums for students or employees. Agriculture in Hawaii is vital and funds should be reserved for positions that emphasize the need for agriculture education.

In the National FFA Organization, we believe in the need for personal growth, premier leadership, and career success through agricultural education. However, the lack of support and funds for these initiatives shows irrelevancy towards the agriculture industry, which is untrue. Students need to indulge in the opportunities with the Agriculture Industry, but they are unable to do so without a successful agriculture education coordinator. I believe that such a position will create a difference in the perspective of students towards agriculture.

It all comes down to the students. An agriculture education coordinator can and will motivate these students. I have personally seen it happen as I experienced it. My advisor may not have been an agriculture education coordinator but they had similar responsibilities. I am a witness to how an ag education coordinator can change the perspective and outlook of agriculture. It's time to show support for the backbone of our society and the need for agriculture education.

Sincerely,

Sean Valencia



House Committee on Higher Education & Technology

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

Wednesday, February 16th, 2022 2:00pm, Conference Room 309

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Clark and Members of the Committee,

HAPA supports HB1844, 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 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 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 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. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anne Frederick". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "A" and "F".

Anne Frederick
Executive Director



Date: February 15, 2022
To: Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair
Representative Linda Clark, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Higher Education & Technology
From: Lydi Bernal, Hawai'i Farm to School Hui Coordinator
Re: STRONG SUPPORT for HB1844, Relating to the University of Hawai'i
Hearing: February 16, 2022 at 2:00pm Via Videoconference

On behalf of the Hawai'i Farm to School Hui, thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support of HB1844**, 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, **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 HB1844.

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

HB-1844

Submitted on: 2/15/2022 1:49:19 PM

Testimony for HET on 2/16/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Chynna Chun	Hawaii FFA State Association	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Higher Education & Technology,

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 the Hawaii Future Farmers of America (FFA) State Coordinator and a third-year undergraduate 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

Submitted on: 2/15/2022 2:53:20 PM

Testimony for HET on 2/16/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nancy Redfeather	Ka Ohana O Na Pua	Support	No

Comments:

It was my great pleasure to work with agriculture education leaders from around the State for 3 years to create consensus on recommendations that could help build the food and agricultural economy in the State of Hawai'i. This Bill brings together years of work, and a shared recommendation that if there was an Ag Ed Coordinator at UH/CTAHR they could work together with the Farm to School Hui, and the many other community organizations, non-profits, and state institutions that already know each other through the Ag Ed Working Group chaired by the Dean of CTAHR, to strengthen programs, teacher training, and support for the State Farm to School Program. This is the time to move forward on this idea. CTAHR is already embracing the Farm to School concept, and this position could leverage those resources across the state.

HB-1844

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 4:02:20 PM

Testimony for HET on 2/16/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Not Needed a wast of Money!

HB-1844

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 11:09:37 AM

Testimony for HET on 2/16/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
scott lacasse	Grow Some Good	Support	No

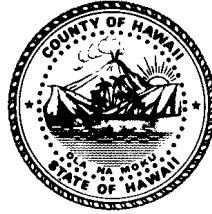
Comments:

Grow Some Good strongly supports this bill for the following reasons:

- 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.

Thank you for taking an interest in Farm to School Programming!

REBECCA VILLEGAS
Council Member
District 7, Central Kona



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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 14, 2022

TESTIMONY OF REBECCA VILLEGAS
COUNCIL MEMBER, HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL
ON HB1844, RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
Committee On Higher Education and Technology
Wednesday, February 16, 2022 at 2:00pm

Aloha Chair Takayama and Members of the Committee:

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 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 Technology 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

HB-1844

Submitted on: 2/15/2022 9:54:46 AM

Testimony for HET on 2/16/2022 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Greetings and apologies for missing the 24 hour submission deadline.

I was part of the original Ag P20 working group convened by the UH Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTHAR). I am also a former high school agriculture teacher and former state Department of Education program manager for agriculture education and the Hawaii Future Farmers of America organization.

I strongly support HB1844 because our schools and communities desperately need an AG P20 coordinator position to support and synergize the incredible agriculture and sustainability influencers and forces that are already making highly impactful, but sometimes isolated and regional change. Their good work can be shared and replicated through this position.

Lastly, CTAHR has proven that it is the best place to house this position. Please note that I am submitting this testimony at 9:55 a.m. on Tuesday February 15, 2022.

Aloha,

Ken Kajihara

HB-1844

Submitted on: 2/15/2022 10:09:00 AM

Testimony for HET on 2/16/2022 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha

Presently, many volunteers are serving as go-betweens with UHCTAHR and UHCOE deans to re-establish the relationship between these colleges and pertinent departments that dates back to the beginnings of UH Manoa. Back in the day, the sugar and pineapple industries were the driving force behind this collaboration. Presently, climate change and other world events now make it imperative for Hawaii to become more sustainable.

This coordinator can be positioned to fuse the pedagogy and content from both colleges and reach out to the HIDOE towards developing ag curriculum, methodology and green workforce development.

I strongly support this legislation as a step towards implementing bills passed and enacted in 2021 to the teaching level professors, teachers, higher ed and K-12 students.

HB-1844

Submitted on: 2/15/2022 11:55:40 AM

Testimony for HET on 2/16/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kerstyn Afuso	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Subject: In support of HB1844

Aloha e Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Clark, and Members of the HET Committee,

I stand in **full support of HB1844** which would designate a full-time agriculture education coordinator through the University of Hawai‘i’s College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. I am 23 years old and grew up going through Hawaii’s public school system. I experienced the disconnect to our ‘āina that was perpetuated throughout these school years. I stand here in support of HB1844 for our future keiki who should be granted a different narrative around agriculture.

With the average age of farmers more than 60 years old, it is apparent that young people are not interested in farming. Lack of exposure to anything agriculture-related can play a part in this. From kindergarten through high school, I did not receive a single class related to agriculture. I don’t think I even knew how potatoes grew, let alone that they were what made up the smiley faced french fries on my school lunch plate.

While attending the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, studying dietetics (nutrition) in CTAHR, which seems almost a complimentary subject to agriculture, I was not exposed to agriculture education there either. I was being taught what foods were good for our bodies yet never taught where those foods were coming from or how they were grown. Not one single class. I was frustrated having this vital part of nutrition shunned throughout my schooling. I imagine someone not studying nutrition wouldn’t notice this fact. So, I am here to stand up for our keiki, our middle schoolers, our high schoolers, and our college students who may not realize what is missing from their education.

After graduating from UH Mānoa, I went on to UH West O‘ahu to study sustainable food systems. This opened my eyes to a whole new view on nutrition with a much deeper appreciation and understanding for agriculture. It is vitally important that we make children aware of the integral part that agriculture, food, fiber, and natural resource management has in our lives, and it should start at a young age and continue throughout their schooling. Without the young generation’s value for agriculture, compounded with climate change’s effect on crop production, food security and sustainability will be near impossible. **I therefore fully support HB1844** to create an agriculture education coordinator through UH CTAHR.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Kerstyn Afuso

HB-1844

Submitted on: 2/15/2022 12:04:58 PM

Testimony for HET on 2/16/2022 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Honorable Chair and Committee on High Education and Technology members.

I am writing in support House Bill 1844 related to University of Hawaii. 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 a 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 standard 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.

Since 1997, Vocational Education has undergone dramatic changes mostly influenced by funding requirements at the federal level through Carl 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.

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 will go a long way to create an effective labor pipeline for the agriculture industry.

HB-1844

Submitted on: 2/15/2022 12:45:11 PM

Testimony for HET on 2/16/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Michele M Weinhouse	Lanai High & Elementary School	Support	No

Comments:

As a teacher at Lanai High & Elementary School teacher CTE Natural Resources to students, many descendents of pineapple pickers brought to Hawaii to pick the islands pineapple, I see a way for my students to pursue agriculture as a viable career once again. Today is not the same farmer as their great-grandparents. Technology, world-views, socio-political understanding of agriculture is needed. Without the resources provided by organizations such as College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, HFNA, Hawaii Farm to School, Center for Getting Things Started and FFA, I would be a struggling Nat Res teacher teaching with outdated, 20th Century skills. There is a new understanding of what Hawaiian Agriculture should look like and thrive in a sustainable, culturally relevant manner. Hawaii Public Schools needs to update its resources, collaborate and work together to build an independent, sustainable agricultural industry which starts with educating our keiki. Public school teachers need help and this bill provides the funding to get us those resources.



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February 15, 2022

Chairman Takayama, Vice Chair DeCoite, and members of the House Committee on Higher Education and Technology:

I write today in strong support of HB1844. As the state relations specialist for the western US including Hawaii, I am thrilled to see this legislation be picked back up as a continuation of the good work done in 2017, 18, and 19.

Agriculture education is among the fastest growing CTE areas in the US and student membership in FFA is the number one intracurricular organization in the nation.

The proposal to support a coordinated framework for ag education in Hawaii is not only extremely logical and appropriate but timely and necessary as the population expands and resources diminish.

Money spent to support ag education in Hawaii is money very well spent that will pay dividends in development, entrepreneurship, and prosperity for years to come.

Thank you for giving strong consideration to pass HB1844 and my sincere thanks to the leadership and members of this committee who have shown support for the growth of ag education and FFA in prior legislative sessions.

Sincerely,

Ben Meyer
Central & Western Region
State Relations Specialist

HB-1844

Submitted on: 2/15/2022 1:23:51 PM

Testimony for HET on 2/16/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Donna Therrien	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please fund this position!

HB-1844

Submitted on: 2/15/2022 1:27:44 PM

Testimony for HET on 2/16/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jhanella Shayne Gerardo	Hawaii FFA	Support	No

Comments: I'm Jhanella, a junior at Waipahu High School and Hawaii FFA State Vice President. I support HB 1844 in providing funds to establish an agriculture education coordinator position. Having this position will expose students in all grade levels to agriculture education, assist our AFNR teachers, and create more opportunities for students like me to be an agriculture advocate which Hawaii needs.

HB-1844

Submitted on: 2/15/2022 1:49:24 PM

Testimony for HET on 2/16/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Christina Martiney	Kauai High School Natural Resource Teacher	Support	No

Comments:

Please consider funding this bill in order to increase agriculture education! We are in desperate need of help as programs across the state are being or have been defunded. I have watched the Tropical Agriculture ASNS at Kauai Community College get dropped to a Certificate of Achievement, and now to nothing after budget cuts. Our keiki need to know the importance and values that come from agriculture and agriculture related fields. Please show your support of future sustainability. Farming is not just a hobby!

Thank you very much!

HB-1844

Submitted on: 2/15/2022 1:53:15 PM

Testimony for HET on 2/16/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Marian Huff	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB1844! Marian Huff

Waipahu Intermediate School FFA
94-455 Farrington Hwy · Waipahu, HI



February 15, 2022

Hawaii State Legislature
415 Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Reference: HB1844 Relating to the University of Hawaii

Dear Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Clark and the Higher Education & Technology Committee,

I am writing as an individual to support HB1844. I am the agriculture teacher and FFA advisor for Waipahu Intermediate School and I have also been voluntarily serving as the State FFA Executive Secretary over the past several months.

There's such a huge gap between agriculture education and the agricultural industry. I've been working tirelessly to communicate with as many schools as possible to build the FFA program and to work with industry partners to create new competitions, but I can only do so much. We had 13 schools in FFA last year and we're up to 26 this year. But there's so much more work to be done and my first priority is to my school and my students. I give up so much of my own time, early in the morning and late in the evening, to work on state level projects to better the agricultural landscape in Hawaii because it needs to be done.

Adding a full-time position to dedicate to working with schools and industries would really push Hawaii agriculture forward.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Ken Kozuma
WIS Agriscience
Waipahu Intermediate FFA
Hawaii State Executive Secretary



Date: 2/15/22
To: Representative Mark J. Hashem, Chair
Representative Amy A, Perruso, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture (AGR)
From: Hawai'i Youth Food Council
Re: SUPPORT for **HB1844**
Hearing: **2/16, Wednesday, 2pm**

On behalf of the Hawai'i Youth Food Council, thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of HB1844**, 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 Hawai'i'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