



# ‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII’

## Legislative Testimony

### Hō’ike Mana’o I Mua O Ka ‘Aha’ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Higher Education and Technology  
Wednesday, March 22, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

By

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And

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HCR 142/HR 144 – REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA  
COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES TO CONVENE  
A WORKING GROUP TO EVALUATE UPDATING ITS EXTENSION SITES

Chair Perruso, Vice Chair Kapela, and Members of the House Committee on Higher  
Education and Technology:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HCR 142/HR 144,  
which is requesting the University of Hawaii’i at Mānoa College of Tropical Agriculture  
and Human Resources (CTAHR) to convene a working group to evaluate updating its  
Research and Extension stations.

Modern agricultural research, extension, and education facilities provide the foundation  
for cutting-edge research and applied science solutions that address climate change,  
agricultural profitability, food safety, biosecurity, nutrition, and food security.  
Nevertheless, we face unprecedented infrastructure challenges due to years of  
underinvestment and deferred maintenance. Although CTAHR and our clients are  
hopeful that state and national efforts will result in critical investments in research  
infrastructure, we are convinced that the situation on our research and extension  
stations will only become more severe if not addressed with urgency.

Having initiated internal reviews of our research, education, and extension priorities, we  
strongly support the convening of a working group comprised of a wide section of  
society, including state and federal agencies, farmer groups, and communities across  
the state. And we look forward to working as an integral member of the group in  
producing a comprehensive report of its findings and recommendations.

Thank you for your interest and the opportunity this resolution provides for identifying  
investments that will spur new economic opportunities and innovations for farmers,  
ranchers, and producers across the state.