



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘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

Anna Wieczorek, Interim Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

And

Michael Bruno, Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 1586 SD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES

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 strong support of SB 1586 SD1, relating to the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. Specifically, this bill will help rectify significant gaps in the reach of Cooperative Extension programs due to vacancies that have surfaced in the past three years. We also suggest the following amendments based on the distinction between Extension Agent and Extension Specialist. Extension Agents are 100% allocated to extension activities; they transmit information to stakeholders and may collaborate on research efforts. Extension Specialists typically have a split full-time equivalent appointment allocated to extension, research or instruction. Extension Specialists typically conduct applied research addressing immediate issues, and provide information to Extension Agents or directly disseminate information stakeholders.

Specifically, this bill will provide funding:

- 1) For one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) Extension Specialist Agent in entomology in Hilo, County of Hawaii.

SUGGESTED AMENDMENT:

- For one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) Extension Specialist in entomology in Hilo, County of Hawaii.

- 2) For one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) Extension Specialist Agent in livestock in Hilo, County of Hawaii.

SUGGESTED AMENDMENT:

- For one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) Extension Agent in livestock in Hilo, County of Hawaii.

- 3) For one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) State Extension Specialist Agent in livestock at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

SUGGESTED AMMENDMENT:

- For one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) Extension Specialist in livestock at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.
- 4) For one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) Extension Specialist Agent in livestock in the County of Kauai.

SUGGESTED AMMENDMENT:

- For one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) Extension Agent in livestock in the County of Kauai.
- 5) For one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) Extension Specialist Agent in farm and consumer food safety in the County of Maui.

SUGGESTED AMMENDMENT:

- For one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) Extension Agent in farm and consumer food safety in the County of Maui.

CTAHR's Cooperative Extension relies on the knowledge and experience of County Extension agents and specialists to extend research-based knowledge from the land-grant university out to the residents and agricultural producers of the state. That capability has been severely hampered by a string of resignations and retirements happening just prior to, and during, the COVID-19 pandemic. Agricultural producers from around the state have expressed how important these noted positions are essential to the health and well-being of Hawai'i's agricultural producers and consumers.

We strongly support SB 1586 SD1 with the suggested amendments, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our Board of Regents Approved Budget.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION & TECHNOLOGY

Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Chair
Rep. Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair

SB1586 SD1

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES.

Wednesday, March 22, 2023, 2:00 PM
Conference Room 309 & Videoconference

Chair Perruso, Vice Chair Kapela, and Members of the Committee,

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 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 **strongly supports SB1586 SD1** which appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii to establish five full-time equivalent (5.0 FTE) extension specialist and agent positions at the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources.

This measure requests funding for livestock, entomology, and farm and consumer food safety extension positions, which are important for bringing best management practices and research to Hawaii's food producers. Especially during a time in which we are combatting invasive species like the Twolined Spittlebug, ranchers will benefit by having greater access to extension with expertise in the field. Many of these positions are vacant due to attrition, and the community will be served better if funds were provided to fill them again. The extension positions that are currently filled, specifically relating to the cattle industry, are at capacity, and need more resources in order to meet the evolving needs of our industry. Cattle are consistently in the top 10 agricultural commodities in the state, and we hope that funds will be appropriated to continue to provide cattle producers with the valuable support of extension.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council



SB-1586-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 5:53:48 PM

Testimony for HET on 3/22/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Morgan	Kualoa Ranch and Hawaii Cattlemen's Council	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is John Morgan. i am the president and Genreal manager of Kualoa Ranch, and the current president of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC). HCC represents ranchers that produce 75% of the cattle raised in Hawaii, and are the stewards of about 20% of the total land mass in the state.

I strongly support this bill and ask that you do too. Supporting the funding of the 5 extension agents as requested by the bill will ensure that our ranchers have the best available knowledge to continue to malama their aina according to current best practices and continue to produce high quality cattle in a humane and efficient manner.

Mahalo

John Morgan



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSEE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION & TECHNOLOGY
Wednesday, March 22, 2023 — 2:00 p.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports SB 1586 SD1, Relating to the University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources.

Dear Chair Perruso and Members of the Committee:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food, renewable energy and clean transportation choices, and better management of freshwater resources.

Ulupono supports SB 1586 SD1, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii to establish five full-time equivalent (5.0 FTE) extension specialist agent positions at the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources.

CTAHR Extension Service provides critical boots-on-the-ground support to local producers across the State. With agricultural expertise and hands-on support, CTAHR's extension agents provide expert advice to local farmers seeking to improve operations. Support, to name a few items, can include crop selection and varieties, soil health, invasive species mitigation and control, crop techniques such as rotation or trellis, and irrigation efficiencies. By adding these 5 positions, the State is directly supporting the future success of local producers in Hawai'i.

As Hawai'i's local food issues become increasingly complex and challenging, organizations need additional resources and support to address and overcome them. We appreciate this committee's efforts to look at policies that support local food production.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i

SB-1586-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 7:53:32 AM

Testimony for HET on 3/22/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gordon Inouye	Puna Flower Power	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Members of the House Committee on Higher Education and Technology,

I am Gordon Inouye, President of Puna Flower Power, a orchid cooperative formed after the 2018 Kilauea Eruption which devastated all of the orchid growers in the Kapoho area. We have come to lean very heavily on the temporary entomology extensaion agent, Dr. Joanna Bloese's expertise in dealing with challenges we have been facing in re-establishing the orchid industry in this area. We have a desparate need to fill this position full time and be assured that we can have access to Dr. Bloese's assistance as issue continue to arise in this day and age with a multitude challenges the floriculture industry faces. Please support this measure as it is vital to our cooperative and industry.

Mahalo, Gordon Inouye, President



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2023

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION & TECHNOLOGY

Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Chair
Rep. Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 22, 2023 2:00 PM
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Conference Room 309
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

**RE: SB1586SD1 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COLLEGE
OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES**

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 350 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 Senate Bill 1586 SD1**

Extension Agent positions are very valuable resource for our Agriculture industry and is imperative to developing a healthy agricultural economy.

Extension's primary purpose is information transfer and education and to help make agricultural production as efficient as possible by addressing developing problems to minimize their impact. Extension specialists also research the latest innovations and technologies and tailor their research to the specific needs of the communities they are serving, which leads to more efficient agricultural production. Extension positions are particularly helpful in assisting new and young growers getting into the industry. This is particularly important because much of the current membership is approaching retirement age and young growers are needed to keep the industry vital. The specialists provide the needed bridge and educational opportunities for these young growers who are new to the industry. Extension provides a font of information, resources, and continued support for new and young producers.



The current lack of extension positions has had a negative impact on our ag industries in Hawaii, while climate change has created a greater need for these extension positions, as it will become increasingly challenging to grow crops due to variable climates, that will also lead to shifting in pest and disease that will affect our crops.

Extension also serves as one of the first lines of defense against new invasive species, since they work very closely with growers and other stakeholders. Prioritizing agriculture creates a more stable economy for Hawaii and you cannot be successful in tropical agriculture without strong entomology and pathology research. In addition to the year-round balmy temperatures in Hawaii, its geographical location connecting Asian and American markets makes it uniquely predisposed to invasive species introductions. Hawaii has earned the title as the Invasive Capital of the World. Frequent pest introductions, climate change, the cost of land, electricity and labor in Hawaii make profitable agriculture challenging.

Hawaii is so unique in its diverse climates and geographical location it is NOT sufficient to rely on research coming from other Universities on the Mainland. You must have 'Boots on the Ground' and extension researchers employed through UH who have a finger on the pulse of industry needs so they can develop PRACTICAL and APPLIED SOLUTIONS through RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT.

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



The House Committee on Higher Education and Technology
March 22, 2023
2:00 PM
Room 309

RE: **SB 1586, SD 1, Relating to the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources**

Attention: Chair Amy Perruso, Vice Chair Jeanne Kapela and members of the Committee

The University of Hawaii Professional Assembly (UHPA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in **support of SB 1586, SD 1**, Relating to the University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources.

SB 1586, SD1 establishes five full-time permanent extension agent positions at the University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. To ensure the recruitment and retention of the positions, it is essential for the FTE appropriation to have a recurring, general funded designation.

UHPA supports and requests the passage of SB 1586, SD 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Christian L. Fern
Executive Director
University of Hawaii Professional Assembly



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
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e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

March 22, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

TESTIMONY ON SB 1586, SD1
RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COLLEGE OF TROPICAL
AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Conference Room 309 & Videoconference
2:00 PM

Aloha Chair Perruso, Vice-Chair Kapela, 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 SB 1586, SD1, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawai'i to establish five full-time equivalent (5.0 FTE) extension specialist agent positions at the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR).

The excellent work performed by UH CTAHR for Hawai'i's farmers and ranchers cannot be overstated. The ongoing outreach and education are unparalleled in the State. Farmers and ranchers rely on this program for their very success. CTAHR has helped develop and improve agricultural technologies pertinent to Hawai'i's farmers and ranchers. This includes intensive cover crop research, promoting the importance of locally grown produce, developing biological and cultural methods for controlling pests without chemicals, and the use of biological nitrogen fixation to significantly increase the production of high protein foods while at the same time reducing the need for commercially produced fertilizers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important subject.

As a former social studies teacher and retired director of the Center for Economic Education at UH-Manoa and chair of the secondary teacher education at the College of Education, I am in full support of the Center for Labor Education.

The growth of the middle class in our country and state was due largely through the efforts of unions. Too often, unions have been made scapegoats preventing the growth of the business. In Hawai`i the unions played a major role in supporting the growth of the middle class, racial integration and practice of democracy.

The role unions played in the growth of Hawai`i from a territory to a state is essential. It would provide a better understanding of the past economic and workforce issues that faced our state and provide a context for the future. Too often the topic is not addressed in the classrooms throughout the state. The impact of the research and resources of the Center for Labor Education will benefit the K-12 students as well as the general public to understand the past and provide guidance for the future. Without question, I strongly support the Center for Labor Education for a more knowledgeable Hawai`i about the importance and impact unionism has on the lives of our citizens and the future for our state.

Gail Tamaribuchi
AAUW – Windward Branch
President

SB-1586-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 7:06:58 PM

Testimony for HET on 3/22/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jenee S Odani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice-chair, and members of the committee:

My name is Jenee Odani, and I am the Extension Veterinarian (Associate Specialist) with the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa’s College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. I am grateful for the opportunity to provide personal testimony in **SUPPORT of SB1586**. This testimony does not represent the position of the University of Hawai‘i or CTAHR.

With the loss of many Extension Specialists & Agents over the past few years, the needs of the livestock industry in Hawai‘i cannot be met. Critical topics such as herd health, reproduction, and responsible use of antimicrobials and anthelmintics (dewormers) need to be addressed.

This bill, however, needs to be more specific as to whether it seeks to hire Specialists or Agents (these are separate position types in the UH system).

Please appropriate the funds to support these extension positions, especially the livestock extension agent positions for Kauai and Hilo. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

SB-1586-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 8:10:16 PM

Testimony for HET on 3/22/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aileen K . F. Yeh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

i am in support of funding for extension agents. We are in need of agents to do research to help the farmers and ranchers, More Research needs to be done focusing on pest control, animal and plant help. Especially with all the invasive species.

SB-1586-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 9:04:14 PM

Testimony for HET on 3/22/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Strong support

SB-1586-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 3:30:09 PM

Testimony for HET on 3/22/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Theresa M Thompson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this Bill SB1586.

Mahalo,

Theresa Thompson

SB-1586-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 6:01:19 AM

Testimony for HET on 3/22/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taylor Kellerman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill as funding these types of positions are imperative to increasing local food production and general food security.

Mahalo

Taylor Kellerman

SB-1586-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 6:14:41 AM

Testimony for HET on 3/22/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Woody Child	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB1586.

SB-1586-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 7:38:26 AM

Testimony for HET on 3/22/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Moniz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION & TECHNOLOGY

Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Chair

Rep. Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair

SB1586 SD1

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES.

Wednesday, March 22, 2023, 2:00 PM

Conference Room 309 & Videoconference

Chair Perruso, Vice Chair Kapela, and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support SB1586, SD1.

I am a veterinarian that recently retired after 38 years of service with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture as the Veterinary Program Manager in charge of its Animal Disease Control Branch within the Animal Industry Division. The program I managed works closely with the University of Hawaii, CTAHR and its Extension Program. Extension is an integral part of successful agricultural in Hawaii. It has been my observation that over the past ten years or so in particular, many new individuals entering farming and livestock production have had little or no formal

training or experience in farming or ranching. I applaud the interest and desire of these new farmers to take on this important role in society but also understand to be successful much technical knowledge and skills are required. The University's Extension program and the trained agents it employs provide that necessary training and continuing education to all farmers and ranchers, especially these new farmers. The Continuing Education program at CTAHR also provides research and technical assistance to evaluate and combat the many pests that challenge agriculture production.

This measure requests funding for livestock, entomology, and farm and consumer food safety extension positions, which are important for bringing best management practices and research to Hawaii's food producers. Especially during a time in which we are combatting invasive species like the Twolined Spittlebug, ranchers will benefit by having greater access to extension with expertise in the field. Many of these positions are vacant due to attrition, and the community will be served better if funds were provided to fill them again.

Thank you and I appreciate the opportunity to support and testify on this measure.

Jason D. Moniz, DVM

SB-1586-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 7:59:39 AM

Testimony for HET on 3/22/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jimmy Gomes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of SB1586 and stand with Hawaii Cattlemen's Council testimony.

SB-1586-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 8:53:24 AM

Testimony for HET on 3/22/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Russell Galanti	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you Chair and Committee for reviewing my testimony. I cannot stress enough how important this position is, and the value that the state would gain from funding this position. Currently the position is grant funded but the work the entomologist currently does is revolutionizing pest management primarily in export nurseries, which is a huge deal when it comes to reducing the spread of devastating pests and diseases.

SB-1586-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 10:39:54 AM

Testimony for HET on 3/22/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this bill since we must have a permanent position to support industry actively with the rampant number of invasive species.

SB-1586-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 10:51:07 AM

Testimony for HET on 3/22/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hannah Lutgen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Hannah Lutgen, as a citizen, I strongly support bill SB1586. An entomologist on Hawaii island is critically essential for the identification and management of new, and existing pests that negatively impact agriculture. Big Island is the largest agricultural producer in the state. Several invasive species start on the big island first and spread to outer islands. An entomologist will help reduce the spread of invasive species such as little fire ants, two-lined spittlebugs, and coqui frogs to other islands that affect the livestock industry, edible crops, and ornamental industries of Hawaii. We need an entomologist to protect food security and help our agricultural producers thrive.

Please kindly consider passing this bill.

Thanks,

Hannah Lutgen

SB-1586-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 11:18:10 AM

Testimony for HET on 3/22/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dylan P. Armstrong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Committee on Higher Education and Technology
The Honorable Amy Perruso, Chair
The Honorable Jeanné Kapela, Vice Chair

Aloha mai kākou,

RE: SB 1586 SD1

I support Senate Bill 1586, SD1, which "[a]ppropriates funds to the University of Hawai'i to establish five full-time equivalent (5.0 FTE) extension specialist agent positions at the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources [CTAHR]."

When former UH Vice President David Yount wrote "Who Runs the University?", then-Dean of CTAHR Ken Lefford reported that 85% of his operation consisted of research and extension services (p. 57) that CTAHR is more than twice the size of UH Hilo (p. 79) and was more "vulnerable to governmental interference" than any other part of the University (p. 226). Historically, CTAHR has served as the de facto generator for outside monies (research grants mainly) into the state economy. In addition, CTAHR centers UH as a land grant (and sea, and space grant) university. The College is a major attraction for international students (exempting the East-West Center, which is of course separate from the University). CTAHR is a world leader and a unique institution within the entire US.

Furthermore, extension services constitute a critical state subsidy for the state's struggling and shifting agricultural sector.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,
DP Armstrong

SB-1586-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 11:53:03 AM

Testimony for HET on 3/22/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Shiigi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 1586 SD1 - Relating to the University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. There is a significant shortage of Extension Agents. It is essential to establish 5 full-time Extension Specialist Agents in order to meet the needs of farmers. Information, research and their expertise is needed to address present and future adverse affects from climate change, invasive species, etc. Agriculture is critical to Hawaii's sustainability. Please vote in favor of SB 1586.

David Shiigi

SB-1586-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 11:41:12 AM

Testimony for HET on 3/22/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Whitney Boteilho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB1586.

SB-1586-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 12:26:44 PM

Testimony for HET on 3/22/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cindy McCarty	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is important to establish more extension positions with CTAHR as they work more closely with the farmers/public in ways to protect their agriculture crops from various new invasive species. I am a biologist that has worked for USDA, CTAHR and in entomology labs in Hawaii for over 20 years. The rapid response given by CTAHR has been valuable in establishing relations with farmers in respect to protecting their crops and the environment. The extension specialists have also mentored many students with the university that are focused on local agriculture and provides many opportunities to learn research and protection techniques.

SB-1586-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 12:47:18 PM

Testimony for HET on 3/22/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joanna Bloese	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 1586 SD1 which appropriates funds for five Extension positions throughout the state of Hawaii.

Extension positions are imperative to developing a healthy agricultural economy in Hawaii. Extension is a bridge between academia and growers/ranchers. Its primary purpose is information transfer and education to make agricultural production as efficient as possible, and address developing problems to minimize their impact.

Extension specialists also research the latest innovations and technologies and tailor their research to the specific needs of the local communities they are serving, which leads to more efficient agricultural production. This is why having Extension agents and specialists on every island is imperative. Additionally, Extension positions are particularly helpful in assisting new and young growers getting into the industry. This is particularly important because much of the current membership is approaching retirement age and young growers are needed to keep the industry vital.

CTAHR Extension specialists and agents are often one of the first lines of defense against new invasive species, since they work very closely with growers and other stakeholders. Farm visits allow for early detection and rapid response to new invaders.

The current lack of extension positions has negatively impacted several agricultural industries in Hawaii. Additionally, climate change has created a greater need for extension positions as it becomes more challenging to grow crops due to variable climates and shifting pest and disease complexes. Having a Livestock specialist and Entomology specialist located in Hilo is vital to combating severe pest problems, such as two-lined spittle bug. Prioritizing agriculture creates a more stable economy for Hawaii and a healthier community overall. This is why I fully support bill SB1586. Thank you for your time and consideration.

SB-1586-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 1:33:19 PM

Testimony for HET on 3/22/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nathan Trump	Island Harvest	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a commercial farmer on the Island of Hawaii and I strongly support SB 1586 SD1. Funding for agricultural research and extension is absolutely necessary for the state to have a thriving agricultural industry.

SB-1586-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2023 12:25:25 AM

Testimony for HET on 3/22/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Holly Barker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am the owner of Kilauea Anthurium Farm in Hawaii County. I have owned the farm for 4 years and prior to that, had no experience in agriculture. Nearly 100% of my sales are within the state of Hawaii. Because of my relative newness to agriculture, local resources have been vital to the health of my business, in particular the availability of experts at the University of Hawaii. It is far more valuable to me to have someone present here on the island than simply by phone. Dr. Joanna Bloesse has visited my farm on several occasions and been an invaluable resource for our continuing business here in Hawaii. The support of the state for her position would support local farmers here, such as myself, and send a message to farmers that agriculture, including the floriculture which is emblematic of Hawaii, is valued. There are otherwise few resources on raising tropical plants and without experts farmers can rely on, this industry will die out, a major loss for Hawaii and its culture.