



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

SB3096 SD1 HD2
MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR AN
AGRICULTURE INNOVATION CENTER.

Monday, April 4, 2022, 1:30 PM
Room 308 and VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Chair Luke, Vice Yamashita, 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 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 SB3096 SD1 HD2** which provides an emergency appropriation for the department of education to build an agriculture innovation center. Agricultural education is a key component to ensuring the longevity and resilience of Hawaii's agriculture sector. This innovation center will give opportunities for young people to learn about the importance of growing food for our community, the value of innovation in the industry, and motivate them to take up a career in agriculture. Farming and ranching is in need of a spurred interest in younger participants. We support this bill that will assist with that and provide career opportunities for the community.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this critical matter for our industry.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director





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

Date: 04/04/2022

Time: 01:30 PM

Location: 308 Via Videoconference

Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Interim Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 3096, SD1, HD2 MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR AN AGRICULTURE INNOVATION CENTER.

Purpose of Bill: Provides an emergency appropriation for the department of education to build an agriculture innovation center. Effective 7/1/2051. (HD2)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports SB 3096 SD1, HD2, an Administration bill, and appreciates the appropriation for the agriculture innovation center.

The Department supports the advancement of new agricultural technologies to increase agriculture production and advance educational and career opportunities for Hawaii's youth.

This measure builds on Act 218, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2015, that created a farm-to-school program and Act 175, SLH 2021, that set a goal of at least thirty percent of food served in public schools be locally sourced by 2030. The Department recognizes the importance of having agricultural programs available to students to promote the consumption of local food and healthy eating habits. Additionally, it is important to teach students about agriculture and potential career paths in the industry. As such, facilities are needed to meet this need.

The proposed facility has the potential to provide agricultural opportunities for students on Kauai, statewide, nationally, and internationally. Beyond growing food, students may gain experience in the development of value-added products, finance, soil research,

and aquaculture, among other opportunities. One desired outcome is for the center to become a thriving hub for curriculum and career opportunities for numerous Hawaii youth.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

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
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TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

APRIL 4, 2022

1:30 P.M.

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE & CONFERENCE ROOM 308

SENATE BILL NO. 3096 SD1 HD2
MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION FOR AN AGRICULTURE INNOVATION CENTER.

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 3096 SD1 HD2, which provides an emergency appropriation for the department of education to build an agriculture innovation center. The Department supports the intent of this measure and otherwise defers to the Department of Education.

Agricultural education is the cornerstone for ensuring a robust future agricultural workforce. The proposed agriculture innovation center will provide students a thriving hub to expand into and capitalize on the promising opportunities in finance, STEM, research, aquaculture and the value-added products market.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





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April 4, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON SB 3096, SD1, HD2
MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION FOR AN AGRICULTURE INNOVATION CENTER

Room 308 & Videoconference
1:30 PM

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

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

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports SB 3096, SD1, HD2, which provides an emergency appropriation for the department of education to build an agriculture innovation center.

HFB recognizes the need and importance of agricultural education and school farm programs, and as a farm organization, we would like to see an increased emphasis on agriculture in schools. We believe that agriculture education programs serve multiple purposes. They serve not only to educate students on how to grow crops but also what it takes to turn a farm into a successful business enterprise that can be a career choice. Agronomy, economics, science, business planning, entomology, pathology, and various technologies including programming, navigation, and robotics are some of the courses that can evolve around the farm. Programs that teach the principles behind good agricultural practices - steps that must be taken that protect the environment, product, and worker are critical components of a school farm. A goal of any Ag Education Program should be to educate and expose students to a career choice.

Developing and maintaining an agricultural workforce should be a vital component of Ag Education programs. A trained workforce with various skills is necessary to any agricultural operation. This need has to be addressed along with generating interest in our youth to pursue various careers and to become our future leaders in Hawai'i agriculture. HFB supports programs and initiatives such as the FFA, 4-H, Farm to School, Aina Pono, and School Garden programs because they help to educate and reconnect

our children with agriculture. Through agricultural 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. An agriculture innovation center would help facilitate this. A new agriculture innovation center on Kauai should be viewed as an investment in Hawai'i's future to develop well-informed consumers and supporters of our local agricultural industries and can be a model for other centers across the state.

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



HAWAII CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

In Support of SB3096 SD1 HD2
Making an Emergency Appropriation to the Department of Education for an Agriculture
Innovation Center

House Committee on Finance

Date: Monday, April 4, 2022

Time: 1:30pm

Place: Videoconference

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the committee:

Thank you for allowing the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association the opportunity to provide testimony in **support** of SB3096 SD1 HD2, which provides an emergency appropriation for the Department of Education to build an agriculture innovation center.

Sustainable agriculture is a vital part of Hawaii's future. This agriculture innovation center will give students the opportunity to explore STEM careers in agriculture and create a resilient workforce and economy. The center will also support locally grown food production and strengthen the state's commitment to the Farm to School program and local agriculture. HCIA supports this measure to build the agriculture innovation center in Hawaii to conduct and oversee a coordinated agricultural program.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in support of SB3096 SD1 HD2. If you have any questions, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Pono Chong
Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association is a Hawaii-based non-profit organization that promotes modern agriculture to help farmers and communities succeed. Through education, collaboration, and advocacy, we work to ensure a safe and sustainable food supply, support responsible farming practices, and build a healthy economy.



Kamehameha Schools®



House Committee on Finance

Time: 1:30 pm

Date: April 4, 2022

Place: Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

RE: SB 3096, SD1, Making an Emergency Appropriation for an Agriculture Innovation Center

Aloha mai Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the Committee.

Waimea High School and its business and community partners **SUPPORT** SB3096, SD1, which would make an emergency appropriation to the Department of Education for an Agriculture Innovation Center. This bill would enable Waimea HS to scale and grow the current working model they enjoy with GEER innovation grant partners, Kaua'i Community College and non-profit entity, Iwikua, to the 10-acre parcel of Mānā land, formerly used by Beck's seed company. We feel this collaborative model of resource sharing has far reaching benefits for not only the island of Kaua'i, but the entire state.

We plan to use the Beck's property to offer quality and impactful educational services in a trauma-informed community. We see this as an opportunity to establish a space where we literally and figuratively grow seedlings and fingerlings to replenish and restore our mauka upland and Waimea River, creating 'āina momona in an area that has been the site of extraction on west Kaua'i. We want Waimea HS and her partners to lead the effort to restore our land and people as our vision is to create a regenerative space where we would:

- Establish a wellness center in conjunction with our Waimea High School Health Academy. Since the start of the pandemic, the overall health on west Kauai has declined dramatically
- Tie in the wellness center and our HAHT (Health, Agriculture, Hospitality/Tourism) Academy with Waimea based non-profit groups, Kumano I Ke Ala and Iwikua. We envision a partnership where students and young adults facilitate their journey to wellness by anchoring themselves back to the 'aina. While separate entities, both Kaina Makua and Josh Mori have programs that emphasize traditional Hawaiian values while teaching our next generation about food sovereignty and entrepreneurship.
- Enter into a collaborative agreement with one to two business/community partners and a trade union, giving them space on the property to help grow our current CTE pathways. We want to find partners willing to set up shop on the property and use their equipment/expertise/experience, creating 'classrooms' where our teachers and students learn and work alongside industry professionals.
- Create a satellite Kauai Community College site where West Kauai families have equitable access to post-secondary educational opportunities
- Keep the processing part of the Beck's facility operational and open it up to all farmers on the westside to process their produce for sale. We also want to establish a community certified kitchen open to West Kauai organizations
- Ultimately, use Waimea High School building and construction students and our trade partners to build a residential segment and open up a group home or dormitory where strong families are trained and selected to live onsite with some of our most at-risk kids on the westside. That would allow us to run programs during the school year and open up the site during summers to bring in other outside groups.

For these reasons, we urge the committee to **PASS** SB3096, SD1 to allow us to pursue the acquisition of the Beck's site so that we can provide such transformational programming to our Kaaui community and beyond. Mahalo for your consideration.

Our partners in this effort include:

- Waimea High School
 - Kekaha Elementary
 - Eleele Elementary
 - Kalaheo Elementary
 - Koloa Elementary
 - King Kaumualii Elementary
 - Kilauea School
 - And our community partners – Kamehameha Schools, Kauai Community College, Education Incubator, Iwikua, and Kumano i Ke Ala
-

Here is some other information that you might find useful, from our GEER grant and school specific data found on the last page:

Waimea HS is one of 31 organizations statewide who were awarded one of Gov. Ige's Innovation Grants in September 2021. Our partners for this grant are Kaua'i CC and Iwikua. Here is the data we used to draft our proposal and the slides linked below are from the 15 minute project proposal we delivered in August.

[Slide deck - GEER grant award \(Waimea HS, Kaua'i CC and Iwikua\).](#)

GEER Project Proposal Overview

- Aims to provide a direct pathway to college 2-year degrees offered at Kaua'i CC and/or the workforce with relevant Natural Resource experience.
- Supports non-tourism related workforce development and contributes to the County's overall commitment to being a Sustainable Island: "...rooted in the principles of Aloha and Malama Aina, and remarkable in its thriving ecosystems. A place where conservation and restoration of land and water resources provide the foundation of sustainable policies for land use, energy, infrastructure, society, and economy" (p.40).
- [Kaua'i County](#) lost 7,500 jobs or a 22.5 percent decrease in the fourth quarter of 2020 over the same quarter of 2019. Jobs decreased the most in Accommodation which lost 3,500 jobs or 72.9 percent. This was followed by Food Services and Drinking Places which lost 1,200 jobs or 26.7 percent.
- "Agriculture is an important element in Kaua'i's identity as a rural place, and it represents our greatest opportunity for economic diversification and food self-sufficiency. We can increase the productivity and profitability of all forms of agriculture by nurturing small-scale farms, promoting crop diversity, and strengthening partnerships" (p.166).
- CoK Economy Sector in Agriculture looks to (1) Increase Aquaculture; (2) Diversify agriculture; (3) Meet the increasing demand for locally-grown, healthy food; and (4) Strengthen Kaua'i's self-sufficiency by increasing food and resource production for local consumption and export.

Waimea HS/Iwikua Opportunities for additional quality & impactful educational services:

- Full access to an operating organic aquaponic farm--->production for CSA "Greens & Things" directly feeds the westside community--->Exposure to small business model.
- STEM integrated systems: Botany, Chemistry, Sustainability, Physics, Modeling Our World math classes
- Diversified agriculture experiential-learning environment.
- Cohorted Natural Resource pathway to exit HS with certificate of competence and prerequisites for numerous degrees.

Other Relevant Data:

- In a Fall 2020 survey to Kaua'i CC students, 40% of respondents were food insecure, living in a multi-generational household, unemployed, using credit cards to pay for college, and/or feeling anxious and stressed by COVID-19.

Waimea High School:

- Native Hawaiian students are our largest demographic -- 45.76% of our total population.

- NH students are over-represented in AVID classes -- 54% -- and *under-represented* in Waimea HS Early College courses -- 35%

Kaua'i CC: Spring 2021

- 30% part Native Hawaiian
- 15% from Waimea HS (n=199)
- 30% of students seeking CTE degree or certificate
- 38 students in [Natural Science](#) AS track = 16% part NH; 16% from Waimea HS;

GEER Background Narrative:

In a Fall 2020 survey of Kaua'i Community College students, 40% of respondents were food insecure, living in a multi-generational household, unemployed, using credit cards to pay for college, and/or feeling anxious and stressed by COVID-19. [Kaua'i County](#) (CoK) saw a loss of 7,500 jobs in the fourth quarter of 2020 compared to the prior year (down 22%), noting its highest losses in the accommodations and food service-related industries. COVID-19 has created an opportunity for Kaua'i's institutions of secondary and higher education to remain steadfast in addressing the need to diversify our economy and reform well aligned CTE pathways to readily support education for careers in natural resource management and sustainable food practices.

In school year 2021-22, Waimea High School and Kaua'i Community College began a cohort of Malama 'Aina students entering into the CTE pathway of Natural Resources which included on-campus farm internships and applicable Early College course offerings. Waimea HS faculty and staff have full access to the farm for curriculum development and implementation. The intention is to provide current high school students with a direct pathway to enter Kaua'i CC to pursue studies in Sustainability & Natural Resource Management and Hawaiian Studies or to enter the growing agricultural workforce with a specific skill set and relevant work experience.

Waimea HS serves a community where 45.76% of students are native Hawaiian. Waimea is a community with a rich history in mahi 'ai kalo (taro farming) and a river ecosystem known for its abundance of 'o'opu prior to the booming sugar industry and present-day seed companies. West Kaua'i is rooted in agriculture and has often had to shift as production and profits have changed overtime. As COVID-19 brought the tourism industry to a screeching halt overnight, the island was reminded of the significance of Malama 'Aina (land stewardship) and food sovereignty. Prior to this pandemic, the CoK's Economy Sector in Agriculture looked to (1) Increase Aquaculture; (2) Diversify agriculture; (3) Meet the increasing demand for locally-grown, healthy food; and (4) Strengthen Kaua'i's self-sufficiency by increasing food and resource production for local consumption and export. In response to the uncertainties of COVID-19, Waimea HS has partnered with 'Iwikua, a West Kaua'i non-profit that "serves as an educational and cultural resource for sustainable food production, wellness, and community enhancement," to bring opportunities to connect coursework to farm operations, production, harvest, distribution, marketing, and sales.

Na Mahi Ho'oko A'e is 'Iwikua's new farm project set on a two-acre mauka parcel on the Waimea HS campus. 'Iwikua uses the ahupua'a model of farming with a fully operational two tank, 12 raceway aquaponics system to demonstrate how traditional farming practices and modernized STEM techniques can feed their community. Currently, students in some design, engineering, science, and math classes are utilizing the hands-on access to the farm with opportunities to enhance in-person and online learning. The Na Mahi Ho'oko A'e farm grows

various produce which is regularly sold to several of Kaua‘i’s westside businesses and community members through a twice weekly produce box.

Waimea HS School specific data

Waimea High School (WHS) serves a rural community ranging from Kalaheo to Mānā, where much of the economy has traditionally centered on agriculture, tourism, and scientific/military research. The campus is home to diverse groups of students from a wide range of socio-economic backgrounds. WHS and each of its feeder schools qualify as Title I school with nearly 53% of its students qualifying for free and reduced lunch in the school year 2021-22.

Table 1: COMMUNITY PROFILE - WEST KAUA‘I COMPLEX				
	2000 School Community	2000 State of Hawaii	2010 School Community	2010 State of Hawaii
Total Population	10,683	1,211,537	11,757	1,360,301
Percent of population ages 5-19	24%	21%	19%	18%
Median age population	39	36	40	39
Number of families	2,683	287,068	2,807	313,907
Median household income	\$43,132	\$49,820	\$62,894	\$66,420
Population Percentage of Community Educational Attainment Level				
College Graduate	14%	28%	17%	29%
Some College	30%	30%	34%	31%
High School Graduate	32%	29%	33%	29%
Less than High School	24%	15%	15%	10%

Source: <http://arch.k12.hi.us/> School Status and Improvement Report (SSIR)

- The west side of Kaua‘i had 12% fewer college graduates than the state.
- When compared to the statewide data, our community had 6% more people who did not graduate from high school.
- Our community’s median household income was \$3,526 less than the state.

Table 2: SCHOOL COMPLETION - WEST KAUA‘I COMPLEX				
Waimea High School	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Total Seniors	141	124	155	134
Diploma Graduates	93%	94%	94%	95.5%
Individually Prescribed Program	1%	4%	2%	1.4%
School Completers	94%	98%	96%	97%
Total Freshmen (4 years prior)	131	113	146	129
Graduated on Time (within 4 years)	85%	85%	88%	85%
School Dropouts (based on the cohort of first-time 9th graders who dropped out prior to graduating)	10% (16)	8% (11)	8% (14)	10% (16)

Source: http://arch.k12.hi.us/ School Status and Improvement Report (SSIR) (Data available in Nov. of following school year.)	
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- According to the data, 85-88% of our high school students graduate within four years.
- The data also indicates that 8-10% of freshmen students dropped out of school prior to completing their 4 years and do not graduate.

Waimea High School

Kekaha Elementary

Eleele Elementary

Kalaheo Elementary

Koloa Elementary

King Kaumualii Elementary

Kilauea School

And our community partners – Kamehameha Schools, Kauai Community College, Education Incubator, Iwikua, and Kumano i Ke Ala

RYAN KAWAILANI OZAWA

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April 1, 2022

Aloha, Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair; and members of the Committee on Finance:

As CEO and co-founder of Smart Yields, I am writing to express my **support** of SB3096 SD1 HD2, relating to the establishment of an Agriculture Innovation Center for the Department of Education.

As a Hawaii-based agtech startup, we sincerely believe that Hawaii can not only achieve food independence, but also restore agriculture as one of the main driving forces of a new diversified, sustainable economy. And part of our mission from the beginning has been fostering the next generation of growers and farmers.

When Smart Yields was first founded in 2017, one of our executive roles was head of education, and our very first technology pilots were in Hawaii schools. We saw first-hand how tomorrow's leaders could develop an appreciation and understanding of agriculture and ensure that it remains a local priority.

A DOE Agricultural Innovation Center will not only advance educational and career opportunities for Hawaii's youth, but also support the development of new agricultural technologies to increase efficiency and production and reduce waste.

As Interim Superintendent of Education Keith T. Hayashi noted in his testimony, this center could become a hub of education, innovation, and workforce development, taking students beyond simply growing food to exploring fields ranging from biology to chemistry to finance to entrepreneurship.

Mahalo for your consideration.



Ryan Kawailani Ozawa

SB-3096-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/2/2022 10:21:25 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
laurel brier	Kauai women's caucus	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Agriculture, done in new, innovative ways, rather than industrial, plantation style can create a fabulous economic base for Hawaii and address the challenges of Climate change and provide for the basic needs of the people in better, healthier ways.

SB-3096-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/4/2022 10:54:16 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Morris Atta	Hawaii Department of Agriculture	Comments	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I am available to answer questions on behalf of the Department of Agriculture.