



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

Date: 02/07/2022

Time: 03:00 PM

Location: CR 229 & Videoconference

Committee: Senate Education
Senate Agriculture and Environment

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: SB 3096 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.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports SB 3096, 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 that 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 be taught 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.



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FEBRUARY 7, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

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

Conference Room 229 & Videoconference
3:00 PM

Aloha Chairs Kidani and Gabbard, Vice-Chairs Kim and Nishihara, and Members of the Committees:

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 SB 3096, 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 Hawaii

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 Hawaii's agriculture industry, and will contribute to Hawaii'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 Hawaii'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
Making an Emergency Appropriation to the Department of Education for an Agriculture
Innovation Center

Senate Committees on Education and Agriculture and Environment

Date: Monday, February 7, 2022

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

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

Thank you for allowing the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association the opportunity to provide testimony in **support** of SB3096, 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. 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.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

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LATE

TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION AND
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

FEBRUARY 7, 2022
3:00 P.M.
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

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

Chairpersons Kidani, Gabbard and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 3096, 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 also enhance the efforts of ongoing, new, and future agricultural entrepreneurs to expand into and capitalize on the promising opportunities in the value-added products market.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

