



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Tuesday, February 14, 2023 at 3:07 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 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Chairs Kim and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Kidani and Richards, and Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education and Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of SB 1586, 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 with the suggested amendments, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our Board of Regents Approved Budget.



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February 14, 2023

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

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

Conference Room 229 & Videoconference
3:07 PM

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

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, 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.

SB-1586

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 12:32:40 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/14/2023 3:07:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support SB 1586.

This bill will strengthen the ability of the cattle industry in Hawaii to remain a viable industry and enable the rancher stewards of almost 1/4 of the state's land resources to malama their `aina for generations to come, for the betterment of all of Hawaii's people.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

SB1586

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

Tuesday, February 14 2023, 3:07 PM
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

Chairs Kim & Gabbard, Vice Chairs Kidani & Richards, and Members of the Committees,

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 **strongly supports SB1586** 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



COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

SB 1586 - Support

Relating to the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

Tuesday, February 14, 2023

3:07 PM

Conference Room 229

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Aloha Chairs Kim and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Kidani and Richards, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Scott Enright and on behalf of Hawaii Sustainable Beef Enterprises (HSBE), I strongly support SB1586. Hawaii's beef cattle industry is an integral part of this state's diversified agricultural economy and an important contributor to our food security. A key component for Hawaii's diversified agricultural economy to flourish is the work of the University of Hawaii's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources extension service. The work of this robust extension service is essential if Hawaii's agricultural economy is to grow. This bills support of extension agents statewide to assist the livestock industry is the type of support the State should be offering and is long overdue. Again, I express my strong support for SB1586.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Sincerely,

Scott Enright



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEES ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT
Tuesday, February 14, 2023 — 3:07 p.m.

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

Dear Chair Kim, Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees:

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, 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



The Committee on Higher Education
&
The Committee on Agriculture and Environment
February 14, 2023
Room 229, 3:07 PM

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

Attention: Chairs Donna Mercado Kim and Mike Gabbard, Vice Chairs Michelle Kidani and Tim Richards, and Members of the Committees

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

SB 1586 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.

Respectfully submitted,

Christian L. Fern
Executive Director
University of Hawaii Professional Assembly



THE SENATE
KA 'AHA KENEKOA

THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2023

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 14, 2023 3:07 PM
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

**RE: SB1586 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.**

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

SB-1586

Submitted on: 2/10/2023 6:12:22 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/14/2023 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
penny levin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

in support with recommendations. UH does not need at livestock extension agent in Manoa where there is no livestock. That position needs to be located where the most livestock farmers are found (either Hawaii or Maui County) and where current livestock agents are retiring. I also note that no agent is being proposed for Molokai, an island where the importance of food security and small scale subsistence and commercial farming is critical to the local economy and where key extension agents are retiring. Please make sure at least one of the agents proposed to be funded is for Molokai.

SB-1586

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 1:36:32 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/14/2023 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

support

SB-1586

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 1:57:34 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/14/2023 3:07:00 PM

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

Comments:

Strong support

SB-1586

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 7:10:38 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/14/2023 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alex Franco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB1586

SB-1586

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 5:04:23 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/14/2023 3:07:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support SB1586.

SB-1586

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 9:34:06 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/14/2023 3:07:00 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 Hawaii 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 Hawaii or CTAHR.

With the loss of many Extension Specialists & Agents over the past few years, the needs of the livestock industry in Hawaii 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 (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

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 10:05:35 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/14/2023 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janet Ashman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONG SUPPORT.

These extension agent positions are essential to support the agriculture industry.

If we're serious about increasing food production, we need to provide this kind of support for our farmers and ranchers.

Thank you.

SB-1586

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 2:35:03 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/14/2023 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brendan Balthazar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We have faced problems in the past and the more information we have the better for us who ship.