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March 29, 2023

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

**TESTIMONY ON SCR 137/SR 219**

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

Conference Room 229 & Videoconference  
3:00 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 requests that the University of Hawai'i at Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources convene a working group to evaluate updating its extension sites.

The excellent work performed by UH CTAHR's Extension Service 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.

Agriculture in Hawai'i has evolved. CTAHR's eighteen research stations need to evolve with the industry. The effectiveness of CTAHR's research network has been seriously curtailed through a lack of investment in modernizing facilities and a long history of deferred maintenance of aging infrastructure.

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

To: The Honorable Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Michelle K. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: Strong Support of SR 219, Relating to the University of Hawaii at Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

Hrg: Thursday, March 30 2023 at 3:00pm, Conference Room 229 and Videoconference

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Position : **SUPPORT**

My name is Breanna Weller, and I am a University of Hawaii at Manoa graduate student within the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. I am submitting testimony in submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SR 219. SR 219 convenes a working group to evaluate updating CTAHR's extension sites.

Throughout the past several years, there has been an increase in concern about sustainability and environmental sensitivity in Hawaii. Recent issues such as the water shortage in Maui, as well as the decreasing availability of agricultural lands have led to a **huge need in tropical agriculture research and support.**

CTAHR's extension sites provide opportunities for farmers, consumers, and families in Hawai'i to grow in their agricultural knowledge. They also support local food systems, healthy living, youth development, and ensure that we have a sustainable food source to support our communities for years to come.

These services are necessary in order to enrich the lives of Hawai'i residents with cultural food knowledge, and to ensure that we are able to provide food for our islands without such heavy reliance on the mainland, or other countries.

In summary, CTAHR's extension sites provide necessary services to our community and could benefit from the continuous evaluation regarding any needed updates. Because of this, I **SUPPORT** passing SR 219.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify, and for your consideration.

Breanna Weller