



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 Ways and Means
Thursday, March 30, 2023 at 10:05 a.m.

By

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

And

Michael Bruno, Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 694 HD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 694 HD1 relating to the University of Hawai'i and appropriates funds to support the aquaculture disease diagnostic laboratory at the State Veterinary Laboratory Building in the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA), Division of Animal Industry (AI) Veterinary Laboratory Services Branch, in partnership with the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources.

HDOA has a veterinary laboratory within the Division of AI that provides disease diagnostic laboratory support for livestock, poultry, and to some extent, aquacultured animals. CTAHR has built disease diagnostic laboratory capabilities for aquacultured animals but cannot provides services to the aquaculture industry with only project-supported personnel. HB 694 HD1 provides the opportunity for HDOA in consultation with CTAHR to respond to the needs of the aquaculture industry. To ensure consistent, timely, and accurate testing services, we defer to HDOA regarding the appropriation of funds and the full-time positions in HB 694 HD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure and we defer to HDOA on the allocation of the funding.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512
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TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON WAYS AND MEANS

MARCH 30, 2023
10:05 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 211

HOUSE BILL NO. 694 HD1
RELATING TO RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chairpersons Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 694 HD1. The bill appropriates funds to support the Aquaculture Disease Diagnostic Laboratory at the Department of Agriculture Animal Industry Division Veterinary Laboratory Services Branch, in partnership with the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture. The Department supports this bill.

The Department estimates personnel costs at \$500,000 for 2 Microbiologist III staff, equipment, and operations annually. The current personnel costs for the State Aquaculture Veterinarian Position are approximately \$150,000, annually. The renovation costs for PCR testing are estimated to be \$450,000. The total request for this measure would be \$1,100,000.

The Department supports this measure, provided it does not impact the Department's priorities identified in the Executive Budget request. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





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March 30, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON HB 694, HD1
RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Conference Room 211 & Videoconference
10:05 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, 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 strongly supports HB 694, HD1 which appropriates funds to support the aquaculture disease diagnostic laboratory at the department of agriculture animal industry division veterinary laboratory services branch, in partnership with the University of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture.

The Legislature has acknowledged the importance of Hawai'i's aquaculture industry and recognizes that supporting local aquacultural production can help the State move toward greater food sustainability and economic diversification. Hawai'i's aquaculture industry continues to be one of the fastest-growing segments of Hawai'i agriculture and has become an important source of seafood and other products for local sale and export. Currently, Hawai'i imports about 63 percent of its seafood.

HB 694, HD1, SD1 is a much-needed measure to provide essential support to Hawai'i's diverse aquaculture industry and we look forward to its passage and the benefits it will bring to aquaculture production.

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

HB-694-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 8:42:11 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/30/2023 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeremy Esposito	Testifying for Pacific Hybreed Inc	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please allocate more funding for disease testing and screening. These facilities open the door for more economics within the state - rather than sending samples to the Pacific US Coast, we can test within state & keep monies local, foster jobs and expertise within the state.



Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair, Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Thursday, March 30, 2023, 10:05 AM
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

Re: HB694 HD1 Relating to Aquaculture

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members,

The Hawaii Aquaculture and Aquaponics Association (HAAA) representing aquaculture industry members, researchers, and supporters Statewide strongly supports HB 694 HD1 which appropriates critical funds to support and staff the Aquaculture Disease Diagnostic Laboratory at the State Veterinary Building in the Department of Agriculture (DOA) Animal Industry Division, Veterinary Laboratory Services Branch, in partnership with the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR).

This Aquaculture Disease Diagnostic Laboratory is critical to the continued development and expansion of all segments of the Hawaii aquaculture industry. As such, the HAAA respectfully requests your strong support of HB 694 HD1 in its entirety, as current written. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ronald P. Weidenbach". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "R".

Ronald P. Weidenbach
HAAA President

2029 Nuuanu Ave. #1510
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817
March 28, 2023

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair, and Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
State Capitol, 415 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support **HB 694 HD1, "Relating to the University of Hawai'i,"** which would provide funding for the State's aquaculture disease diagnostic laboratory and aquaculture veterinarian.

I have made my living in aquaculture and aquaponics in Hawai'i since the late 1970's. Since that time, aquaculture has grown into a major component of Hawai'i's diversified agriculture, with sales of almost \$80 million in 2021 and with much room for further growth. The veterinarian and diagnostic laboratory provide critical support for nearly all segments of the extremely diverse aquaculture industry. I therefore respectfully urge you to support these vital services by passing HB 694 HD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important legislation, and for your support of Hawai'i's growing aquaculture industry.

Sincerely,



Frederick M. Mencher

HB-694-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 10:37:17 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/30/2023 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

Please pass this much-needed measure that will support local aquacultural production and the State's food sustainability and economic diversification goals by providing Hawai'i-based diagnostic laboratory services.

Thank you.