



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'olelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems
Friday, February 3, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

By

Erika Lacro

Vice President for Community Colleges
University of Hawai'i

HB 1426 – RELATING TO VALUE-ADDED PRODUCTS

Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i Community Colleges are in support of HB 1426, which establishes under the Agribusiness Development Corporation a “food and product innovation network” providing access to facilities, resources, expertise and education to capitalize on the “Made in Hawai'i” brand and supporting the strengthening and diversification of the local agriculture economy.

Synergies between network members can expand access statewide, and leverage resources while avoiding unnecessary duplication in support of innovation and business development.

Further clarification of “open-access food” would support better alignment of Network members and their responsibilities within the network.

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of HB 1426, on the condition that any funds appropriated in support of this program does not supplant any portion of the University's budget request.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1426.