



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## ‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

### Legislative Testimony

### Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Higher Education and Technology  
Wednesday, March 22, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

By

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

And

Michael Bruno, Provost  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

#### HCR 142/HR 144 – 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

Chair Perruso, Vice Chair Kapela, and Members of the House Committee on Higher Education and Technology:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HCR 142/HR 144, which is requesting the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) to convene a working group to evaluate updating its Research and Extension stations.

Modern agricultural research, extension, and education facilities provide the foundation for cutting-edge research and applied science solutions that address climate change, agricultural profitability, food safety, biosecurity, nutrition, and food security. Nevertheless, we face unprecedented infrastructure challenges due to years of underinvestment and deferred maintenance. Although CTAHR and our clients are hopeful that state and national efforts will result in critical investments in research infrastructure, we are convinced that the situation on our research and extension stations will only become more severe if not addressed with urgency.

Having initiated internal reviews of our research, education, and extension priorities, we strongly support the convening of a working group comprised of a wide section of society, including state and federal agencies, farmer groups, and communities across the state. And we look forward to working as an integral member of the group in producing a comprehensive report of its findings and recommendations.

Thank you for your interest and the opportunity this resolution provides for identifying investments that will spur new economic opportunities and innovations for farmers, ranchers, and producers across the state.