



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
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By

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And

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HB 2777 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

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 HB 2777 that makes an appropriation to the University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (UH CTAHR) for the establishment of two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) extension agent positions to support the 4-H Youth Development Program and intergenerational programming in Kona, Hawai'i County, and Līhu'e, Kaua'i County.

The two positions were included in the BOR budget request, and the bill invests in the important work that CTAHR is uniquely positioned with developing a vibrant and skilled workforce and ensuring a vibrant and healthy community that starts with positively developing our youth. UH CTAHR is a land-grant university and mandated by the USDA to develop people, through community and economic development, family financial literacy, intergenerational programming, mental health, and 4-H.

4-H is a positive youth development organization that exists to improve young people's lives through intentional, prosocial approach that engages youth within their communities, schools, organizations, peers and families and enhances their strengths, that provides opportunities and furnishes support to build on their leadership skills.

Hawai'i has the highest percentage of multigenerational households in the U.S. and older adults aged 65 or over are expected to reach 23.8% of the state's population by 2045. To address the challenges of caregiving and living with 'ohana, intergenerational programs in Hawai'i bring together people of multiple generations to interact and support each other and their community.

With their statewide needs assessment, the Intergenerational Extension Programs team at CTAHR identified that the highest-priority intergenerational need in Hawai'i is healthy

living, which encompasses food systems, relationships, and physical health. Through CTAHR Cooperative Extension, intergenerational educational programs can improve quality of life, address family challenges, and offer positive resources to build healthy, prosperous communities with Hawai'i residents of all ages.

We support the bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact the priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Budget. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.