



# 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 Agriculture & Food Systems  
February 5, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.

By

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And

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### HB 1184 – RELATING TO CONTROLLED-ENVIRONMENT AGRICULTURE

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1184 relating to controlled-environment agriculture. The bill authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds and appropriates funds for the development of a controlled-environment agriculture (CEA) research and demonstration facility at the Magoon research and teaching site in Mānoa, 'Oahu.

A \$6 million investment is needed to build and start the 5,000-square-foot CEA Innovation Farm at CTAHR with commercial production, research and teaching capabilities. CEA offers a viable solution by enabling year-round food production with higher yields with less land, water, fertilizer, and pesticides, and greater resilience against natural disasters posed by climate change. CTAHR in collaboration with the UH College of Engineering and MetroGrow, will build the CEA Innovation Farm that will produce food for the Hawai'i Department of Education's Regional Kitchens and develop, test, and demonstrate innovations in adaptive infrastructure and technology, precision agriculture and data driven controls, germplasm development and pest management, and commercial demonstration and workforce development.

We respectfully offer the following amendments: SECTION 1., lines 7-8 and SECTION 2., lines 6-7 to correct the name of the college to university of Hawaii at Manoa college of tropical agriculture and human [resources] resilience (CTAHR). The renaming of the college was approved in October 2024 to better align CTAHR's name to its land-grant mission of improving the human condition and human use of natural resources through research, education and Cooperative Extension.

We support HB 1184 with the amendment provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Budget. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.