



**UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM**

**‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII**

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Higher Education  
February 12, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.

By

Parwinder Grewal, Dean  
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience

And

Michael Bruno, Provost  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 1337 HD1 – RELATED TO ENDEMIC PLANTS

Chair Garrett, Vice Chair Amato, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the intent of HB 1337 HD1 relating to endemic plants which requires the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience (CTAHR) to establish an endemic plant seed bank pilot program to preserve and promote the planting of plant species that are endemic to Hawai'i.

We support the intent of this bill and respectfully offer the following comments. CTAHR currently has a small seed production program focused exclusively on agriculturally important crop varieties. CTAHR also has interest in preserving and promoting endemic plant species and has recently received a grant to produce mix plant species seeds of native plants to support reforestation efforts following wildfires. To establish the proposed endemic plant species seed bank, CTAHR has the land and expertise to produce the seed but would need lab, greenhouse, and storage facilities and staff positions.

We support the intent of HB 1337 HD1 provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Budget. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.