



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
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SB 519 SD1 – RELATING TO FOOD SAFETY

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of SB 519 SD1. This testimony is in large part the same submitted for the original bill with the exception that it recognizes the need of the North Shore of O'ahu community for training and support in becoming certified for Good Agricultural Practices (GAP).

GAP Certification is important, in fact crucial, for assuring both food safety and farm success. The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM), College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) strongly supports increasing the GAP training that is already offered by Cooperative Extension. By providing safe and high-quality food to the public, Hawai'i agriculture will increase public confidence in Hawai'i products and serve as a model to other associated and supporting businesses resulting in a consistent contribution to the economy in Hawai'i.

There are communities in the state that are supportive of this bill and that are in need of support. The North Shore of O'ahu is one that has an intense interest in this bill and the need for GAP certification. This bill establishes funding whereby such communities, in collaboration with CTAHR, can get the help that is needed. This includes train the trainer approaches as well as direct training and support.

The current activities by CTAHR in this area for GAP training and support, in preparation for certification and that apply to this bill include:

- The Website: **CTAHR Farm Food Safety: Good Agricultural Practices (Science-based education for Hawai'i growers & handlers)**

(<http://manoa.hawaii.edu/ctahr/farmfoodsafety/>) This website is a resource of training and includes:

Tools and Resources

(http://manoa.hawaii.edu/ctahr/farmfoodsafety/tools_and_resources/) such as

Publications and videos, as well as helpful links

Step-by-step process guidelines

Dealing with the audit process

Outreach materials

- The website: **Consumer Food Safety** (<https://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/foodsafety-ces/>)
- 10 extension agents involved in food safety education.
- A Produce Safety Rule Train-the-Trainer held on O‘ahu, expanded the training capacity to 38 people.
- 125 consultations and trainings by extension agents that were provided to the Hawai‘i Department of Education teachers, faculty, growers, health educators, event coordinators, and Master Gardeners working with farms, school and community gardens, and animal exhibits.
- The CTAHR Farm Food Safety Facebook page and Instagram social media presence that was launched in August 2016.

Even with this level of activity CTAHR has not been able to keep up with the demand. UHM/CTAHR is ready to collaborate with all interested parties.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testify in strong support of SB 519 SD1 provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our Board of Regents Approved Budget.