



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
and
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
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SB 2730 – RELATING TO 'ULU

Chairs Kim and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Kidani and Ruderman, and members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education and Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 2730, which relates to developing an 'ulu industry in Hawai'i.

'Ulu is a crop that is unique to the agriculture of the United States and no other state grows it. The crop holds significant potential for farmers in the state, but that potential appears to be mainly in the value added component of the industry. One reason is that the shelf life of the fruit is limited.

The University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) is currently engaged in research and development of this crop. CTAHR's effort is led by Dr. Noa Lincoln whose research includes the cultivation of the crop while incorporating native Hawaiian knowledge. Dr. Lincoln leads 'ulu workshops to help individuals care for their trees. His approach is to support the growth of the industry while also presenting a native Hawaiian philosophy to the task.

If funded, CTAHR is well-prepared to take on the challenge and engage the range of scientists that are inside and outside CTAHR. For example, Dr. Kacie Ho, a recent hire, teaches the Experimental Foods Laboratory and conducts research on the health benefits of foods.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of SB 2730 provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Budget.