



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

---

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Thursday, February 20, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.

By  
Nicholas Comerford, Dean  
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources  
And  
Michael Bruno, PhD  
Provost  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### SB 2736 – RELATING TO UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 2736 that seeks to support the ornamental and landscape industry on O'ahu County, with particular emphasis on East O'ahu, by requesting three (3) faculty positions for the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR). The three positions, and their foci, are well-defined in the bill.

This is one of three bills that deals with biosecurity in the ornamental/landscape industry, which speaks to the problem that this industry is facing. This industry is an important economic engine for agriculture as, taken as a whole, it represents approximately two-thirds of the Hawai'i farm gate value.

Important components of this request focus on pesticide efficacy, labeling, education and training of both conventional and organic certified pesticides. This request fits the CTAHR's goals as it is dedicated to supporting all types of scientifically-based agriculture.

Another important point for this request is that while these positions are stated to work primarily in O'ahu County, all CTAHR faculty also have state-wide responsibilities. This is particularly true for all faculty with Extension appointments.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 2736 provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Budget.