



# 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 Agriculture & Food Systems  
March 17, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.

By

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University of Hawai'i System

#### SB 520 SD2 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

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

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of SB 520 SD2, which provides for a farmer succession five-year pilot program in the University of Hawai'i Leeward Community College that leverages existing farms, ranches, and education to leverage resources in support of growing an agriculture workforce.

This program will support the navigation between education and employment, as well as provide technical assistance to prospective farmers in accessing land, funding, and planning resources. Additionally, it will provide for the development and offering of training to support aspiring and current farmers and ranchers in the growth and succession of agriculture in Hawai'i.

Note that while Section 2 includes 4.0 FTE staff positions and an appropriation for FY24 and FY25 for UHCC, the measure requires the pilot program to continue for five years. As such, it may be more appropriate to establish the pilot program via line-item appropriation in the General Appropriations Act to ensure continued funding throughout the five years, along with a proviso that has a corresponding sunset date.

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of SB 520 SD2, as long as its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 520 SD2.