



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee Ways and Means
Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.

By

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SB 1547 – RELATING TO VALUE-ADDED PRODUCTS

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i Community Colleges are in support of SB 1547, which establishes under the Agribusiness Development Corporation a “food and product innovation network” providing access to facilities, resources, expertise and education to capitalize on the “Made in Hawai'i” brand and supporting the strengthening and diversification of the local agriculture economy.

Synergies between network members can expand access statewide, and leverage resources while avoiding unnecessary duplication in support of innovation and business development.

A concern is on the reporting responsibilities, whether “progress Hawai'i has made in growing the State's agriculture industry, food industry, and related industries, and in meeting the State's food security goals” appear to go beyond the scope of the Networks reporting capacity.

Additionally, further clarification on “open-access food” would support better alignment of Network members and their responsibilities within the network.

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of SB 1547, 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 1547.