



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Thursday, March 30, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

By

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And

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SB 1586 SD1 HD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of SB 1586 SD1 HD1, relating to the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. Specifically, this bill will help rectify significant gaps in the reach of Cooperative Extension programs due to vacancies that have surfaced in the past three years. Specifically, this bill will provide funding:

- 1) For one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) Extension Specialist in entomology in Hilo, Hawai'i County.
- 2) For one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) Extension Agent in livestock in Hilo, Hawai'i County.
- 3) For one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) State Extension Specialist in livestock at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.
- 4) For one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) Extension Agent in livestock in Kaua'i County.
- 5) For one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) Extension Agent in farm and consumer food safety in Maui County.

CTAHR's Cooperative Extension relies on the knowledge and experience of County Extension agents and specialists to extend research-based knowledge from the land-grant university out to the residents and agricultural producers of the state. That capability has been severely hampered by a string of resignations and retirements happening just prior to, and during, the COVID-19 pandemic. Agricultural producers from around the state have expressed how important these noted positions are essential to the health and well-being of Hawai'i's agricultural producers and consumers.

We strongly support SB 1586 SD1 HD1 with the suggested amendments, provided that its passage does not impact priorities as indicated in our Board of Regents Approved Budget.