



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 on Higher Education
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Tuesday, February 14, 2023 at 3:07 p.m.

By

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And

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of SB 1586, 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. We also suggest the following amendments based on the distinction between Extension Agent and Extension Specialist. Extension Agents are 100% allocated to extension activities; they transmit information to stakeholders and may collaborate on research efforts. Extension Specialists typically have a split full-time equivalent appointment allocated to extension, research or instruction. Extension Specialists typically conduct applied research addressing immediate issues, and provide information to Extension Agents or directly disseminate information stakeholders.

Specifically, this bill will provide funding:

- 1) For one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) Extension Specialist Agent in entomology in Hilo, County of Hawaii.

SUGGESTED AMENDMENT:

- For one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) Extension Specialist in entomology in Hilo, County of Hawaii.
- 2) For one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) Extension Specialist Agent in livestock in Hilo, County of Hawaii.

SUGGESTED AMENDMENT:

- For one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) Extension Agent in livestock in Hilo, County of Hawaii.
- 3) For one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) State Extension Specialist Agent in livestock at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

SUGGESTED AMMENDMENT:

- For one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) Extension Specialist in livestock at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.
- 4) For one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) Extension Specialist Agent in livestock in the County of Kauai.

SUGGESTED AMMENDMENT:

- For one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) Extension Agent in livestock in the County of Kauai.
- 5) For one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) Extension Specialist Agent in farm and consumer food safety in the County of Maui.

SUGGESTED AMMENDMENT:

- For one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) Extension Agent in farm and consumer food safety in the County of Maui.

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 with the suggested amendments, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our Board of Regents Approved Budget.