



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 Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism
and
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

By
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SB 2500 – RELATING TO VALUE-ADDED PRODUCTS

Chairs DeCoite and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Wakai and Richards, and Members of the Committees:

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of SB 2500, 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", "produced in Hawai'i", or "processed in Hawai'i" brand and supporting the strengthening and diversification of the local agricultural economy.

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

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of SB 2500, 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 2500.