



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 Economic Development and Tourism
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at 1:01 p.m.

By
Della Teraoka
Interim Vice President for Community Colleges
University of Hawai'i System

SB 558 – 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 558, which establishes a “food and product innovation network” under the Agribusiness Development Corporation. This network will provide 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, which is critical to meeting the State’s agricultural and economic diversification goals.

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.

Critical to the success of exports and commercialization of value-added products is the establishment of facilities with the capacity to support growing businesses in scaling up production and supporting economic diversification through offshore markets in all counties, including commodities and off-grades in each region.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 558.