



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
January 30, 2025 at 3:05 PM

By

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And

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SB 666 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support and offer amendments to SB 666 relating to the University of Hawai'i (UH) that converts two temporary farm-to-school extension agent positions within the UH at Mānoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources into permanent positions, and establishes an agriculture education coordinator position, and appropriates funds.

SB 666 will make a significant investment in strengthening the agriculture workforce development pipeline by supporting statewide efforts to develop future farmers and a society that values and understands the vital role of agriculture, food, fiber, and natural resource systems in advancing personal, local and global well-being. As CTAHR had the privilege to lead and complete the report required by SR 80 (2015), we support establishing and funding a full-time agriculture education coordinator position to advance the goals outlined in this bill.

In regards to SECTION 2 (a), CTAHR supports converting two temporary farm to school extension agent positions into two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) permanent positions, one on 'Oahu and one on Moloka'i. The bill refers to a temporary Extension Agent being employed on Kaua'i and the position to be made permanent on the island of Kaua'i. The current position is located on the island of Moloka'i, and we request an amendment to reflect our current employee's location on the island of Moloka'i.

We also respectfully offer the following amendments to SECTION 1, page 3, lines 18 - 19; and page 4, lines 10-11; SECTION 2.(a), lines 12-13; (b) lines 18-19; SECTION 3., lines 17-18 to correct the name of the college to university of Hawaii at Manoa college of tropical agriculture and human [resources] resilience (CTAHR). The renaming of the college was approved in October 2024 to better align CTAHR's name to its land-grant

mission of improving the human condition and human use of natural resources through research, education and Cooperative Extension.

We support SB 666 with the suggested amendments, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Budget.