



# 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 672 – RELATING TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support with amendments to SB 672 relating to the University of Hawai'i which authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds and appropriate funds for a capital improvement project (CIP) for the repair, maintenance, and demolition of buildings at Waimānalo Research Station.

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 respectfully offer the following amendment: SECTION 1., lines 2-3, to correct the name of the college to university of Hawaii at Manoa college of tropical agriculture and human [resources] resilience (CTAHR).

The Waimānalo CARES (CTAHR Agricultural Research and Extension Stations) Center is part of a statewide network of CARES centers that provides crucial support for local farmers, ranchers, and the local community conducting agricultural research, Extension and 'āina based educational activities from K-12 to graduate levels for the public good. CTAHR appreciates the purpose of SB 672 which authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds in the sum of \$4,000,000 for fiscal year 2025-2026 for CIP at the Waimānalo research station. There is a new opportunity presented by the adjacency of the former Meadow Gold Dairies (MGD) land to the Waimānalo research station. CTAHR now manages the MGD under a Right of Entry with DLNR, and CTAHR would like to build a state-of-the-art animal science teaching, research, and Extension facility and further expand field research and the GoFarm program to meet food self-sufficiency goals, and obtain national accreditation for its Animal Science undergraduate program. CTAHR respectfully requests an amended sum of \$5,500,000 of the general obligation

bonds for CIP at Waimānalo research station with the additional \$1,500,000 for Phase 1 of the redesign of MGD land at the Waimānalo research station.

We support SB 672 with the suggested amendments, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Budget. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.