



# 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 865 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 865 relating to Agriculture that appropriates funds to establish a permanent Educational Support Associate position within the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UH) College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources' Kona Cooperative Extension.

In research produced by CTAHR faculty published in 2014, The Economics of Coffee Production in Hawai'i, EI-25, the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. (Woodill et al., 2014), it was found that there were 516 coffee producers generating under \$10,000 annually on an average farm size of 1.67 acres; 327 farms generating \$10-250,000 in sales on an average of 5.76 acres; and just 9 farms generating \$250K-1 million on an average farm of 108.56. And there were two farms generating over a million dollars in sales annually. These producers generated significantly different profits at different scales. CTAHR Applied Research and Cooperative Extension serves all coffee producers and other orchard crop producers and farmers with education, innovation and outreach required to support their success. Our aim is to increase producer's economic viability at all scales.

This administrative, professional, and technical (APT) position will contribute to the applied research and Cooperative Extension efforts based at the Kona Agriculture and Extension Office. The APT support is an important addition to our work as it helps extend capacity of our faculty to work on issue identification, educational program development, and engagement with our agricultural producers.

We also respectfully offer the following amendments to SECTION 1, page 1 lines 3 -4; and page 3, lines 8-9; and SECTION 2., lines 19-20; 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 865 with the suggested amendments, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Budget.