



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 and
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
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By

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And

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SB 1158 – RELATING TO CONTROLLED-ENVIRONMENT AGRICULTURE

Chair Kim and Gabbard, Vice Chair Kidani and Richards and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 1158 relating to controlled-environment agriculture. The bill authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds and appropriates funds for the development of a controlled-environment agriculture (CEA) research and demonstration facility at the Magoon research and teaching site in Mānoa, 'Oahu.

A \$6 million investment is needed to build and start the 5,000-square-foot CEA Innovation Farm at CTAHR with commercial production, research and teaching capabilities. CEA offers a viable solution by enabling year-round food production with higher yields with less land, water, fertilizer, and pesticides, and greater resilience against natural disasters posed by climate change. CTAHR in collaboration with the UH College of Engineering and MetroGrow, will build the CEA Innovation Farm that will produce food for the Hawai'i Department of Education's Regional Kitchens and develop, test, and demonstrate innovations in adaptive infrastructure and technology, precision agriculture and data driven controls, germplasm development and pest management, and commercial demonstration and workforce development.

We respectfully offer the following amendments: SECTION 1., lines 7-8 and SECTION 2., lines 6-7 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 1158 with the amendment 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.