



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Agriculture
Wednesday, February 8, 2017 at 8:30 a.m.

By

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And

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HB 1311 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 1311, which establishes a K-12 Agriculture Workforce Development Pipeline Initiative in DLIR to conduct training for teachers and school administrators in agricultural self-sufficiency; and appropriates funds for this purpose.

HB 1311 implements the recommendation by the Hawai'i agriculture workforce advisory board, of which the Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR), University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, was a member, for training on all islands for teachers and school administrators in agricultural self-sufficiency. Although we defer to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations on fiscal and management implications, we believe that implementation of this recommendation assists in the development of an educated and well-trained agricultural workforce in Hawai'i, and complements such related efforts as Future Farmers of America, 4-H, and Farm to School programming. This effort to bolster agricultural education in the schools also ties into the work of the current P-20 Agricultural Education Working Group, convened by the Dean of CTAHR at the direction of the Legislature.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 1311.