



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Thursday, March 15, 2018 at 1:20 p.m.

By
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And
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HB 1968 HD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COLLEGE OF
TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
SERVICE

Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kim, and members of the Senate Committee on Higher
Education:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 1968 HD1 which appropriates
funds for fiscal year 2018-2019 to the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, College of
Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) Cooperative Extension Service
(CES) for four full-time ornamental plant extension agents—one each for the City and
County of Honolulu, eastern portion of the County of Hawai'i, County of Maui, and
County of Kaua'i.

As indicated in the bill, the CTAHR CES has experienced a significant decrease in
personnel. The CTAHR CES is unique in that it is the branch of the University that
works throughout the state with its citizens to provide solutions to their lives. The CES
translates research into actionable programs with the expectation of helping growers
become more efficient and more economically viable. Given the high wholesale value of
the ornamental plant industry in Hawai'i (approximately \$70 million and 12,000 jobs),
the industry has identified a need for agents. Significant problems face the industry
including new pests and diseases, water relations, and climate change. Extension
agents, being the bridge between research and action on the ground, will help the
industry address these challenges.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 1968 HD1, provided that
its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOR
Approved Supplemental Budget Request.