



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at 10:30 a.m.

By  
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And  
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HB 1968 HD1 SD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 1968 HD1 SD1 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. It is imperative that these four full-time ornamental plant extension agent positions be permanent positions to maintain service throughout the state.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of HB 1968 HD1 SD1, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Supplemental Budget Request.