



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

---

Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Finance  
Wednesday, February 28, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.

By

Nicholas Comerford

Dean, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

And

Michael Bruno

Interim Vice Chancellor and Academic Affairs and Vice Chancellor for Research  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### HB 2671 HD1 – RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the House Committee on Finance:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2671 HD1. With Mycogen leaving Moloka'i, as many as 80-90 temporary agricultural workers will lose their jobs. This further aggravates the economic plight on Moloka'i. The College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources believes that with the collaboration of the diverse agencies mentioned some retraining and creative job deliverance is possible that not only will help some portion of the soon to be unemployed, but also increase the agricultural production of the island.

While the bill is not specific as to the solutions, the immediate need for resources to support economic development is real; and retraining as well as equipment support will certainly be necessary and will not easily wait until next year. For these reasons we support the bill and are available to provide our input to determining what solutions are applicable toward the benefit of the citizens of Moloka'i.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 2671 HD1.