



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
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HB 2671 HD1 SD1 – RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2671 HD1 SD1. 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 (CTAHR) 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 will 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. CTAHR is already engaged with Windward Community College (WCC) with WCC funding the retraining and CTAHR Extension Agents providing the farm training.

For these reasons we support the bill and are available to provide our input to determine what solutions are applicable to benefit the citizens of Moloka'i.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 2671 HD1 SD1.