



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
And

Senate Committee on Education
Friday, February 3, 2017 at 2:15 p.m.

By

Rachel Novotny, Interim Dean

And

J. Kenneth Grace, Associate Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 1195 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairs Gabbard and Kidani, Vice Chairs Riviere and Kahele, and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and the Environment and Committee on Education:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 1195, which appropriates funds to the department of labor and industrial relations for the K-12 agriculture workforce development pipeline initiative.

SB 1195 continues to implement 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 SB 1195.