



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
And

Senate Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, February 6, 2018 at 1:15 pm

By

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And

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SB 2069 – RELATING TO 'ULU

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

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 2069.

Breadfruit is indeed a commercial crop in Hawai'i that has not met its commercial potential. Statewide surveys show that the number of commercial trees is growing. It is culturally and historically significant to the state. Early signs of potential industry engagement are the recent establishment of processors, of a breadfruit cooperative, and of farm-to-school programs.

The College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources has expertise that can address the tasks itemized in Section 2.

- (1) Developing breadfruit businesses that have demonstrated significant product sales – CTAHR has edible crop Extension Agents throughout the state that can help individual farmers with existing information on the production of this crop. CTAHR has recently hired a faculty member to work on value added food products, who could potentially work on breadfruit issues.
- (2) Performing research that is directly supporting farmers and industry development – CTAHR has researchers that are currently working with 'ulu. Most notable is the work of Dr. Noa Lincoln that has developed a citizen research program state-wide to better understand the growth and development of the tree and its crop. One of the objectives of this program is to boost local 'ulu production (<https://www.hawaii.edu/news/2017/11/06/local-breadfruit-citizen-project/> ; <http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/story/36779251/citizen-scientists-wanted-to->

[help-study-the-ulu-plant](#)) . In addition, CTAHR has expertise in fruit tree management, post-harvest treatment, and related soil management.

- (3) Providing ancillary support such as tree production, marketing and public education – CTAHR, through its Extension program can promote the crop through its educational programs by translating research into actionable practices. Currently, CTAHR has a publication entitled – “Breadfruit; ethnobotany, nutrition, and human ecology” as an example of current information that can immediately be brought to the issue.

We support SB 2069 under the conditions that it does not affect, and is in addition to, the UH budget request.