



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, February 28, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.

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SB 2075 – RELATING TO THE SUSTAINABLE AND ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 2075.

Section 1. We fully support the idea that certified organic agriculture or some version of is a valuable option in the diverse agricultural system portfolio that should exist in the state of Hawai'i. The three challenges identified also outlines the three legs of the stool that define a sustainable system. Field research conducted by CTAHR using scientific experimentation, design, and statistical analysis will provide science-based information on these farming practices that will be communicated back to the farming community via extension agents across the state.

Section 2. We support this section and provide more detail on the budget that may be helpful.

- 1) Junior Researcher at Mānoa
- 2) Junior Researcher on Maui
- 3) A Research Support APT, to assist the Junior Researchers

Costs:

Junior Researcher = ~\$70,000 x 2 positions = \$140,000
Research Support APT = approx. \$42,000 + 52% Fringe benefits \$21,840 = \$63,840
Total Personnel = \$203,840
Operations = \$60,000
Grand Total = \$263,840

We fully support SB 2075 with the caveat that it does not affect, and is in addition to, the UH budget request.