



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Written Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Finance  
Thursday, February 26, 2015 at 1:30 pm

By

Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor

And

Maria Gallo, Dean

And

J. Kenneth Grace, Associate Dean

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### HB 853 HD1 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 853 HD1, which establishes a k-12 agriculture workforce development pipeline initiative in the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to conduct trainings for teachers and school administrators in agricultural self-sufficiency.

HB 853 HD1 will implement the recommendation of the Hawaii agriculture workforce advisory board, of which the Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, is a member. Although we defer to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations on the fiscal and management implications of HB 853 HD1, we believe that implementation of this recommendation will greatly assist 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.

Should HB 853 HD1 be considered a viable approach by the legislature and the referenced departments, we will be glad to continue to work, as our resources permit, with all the parties concerned to promote agricultural workforce development and further the goal of agricultural self-sufficiency in Hawai'i.