



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture
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by

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SB 524 – Relating to Agriculture

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kouchi, and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, my name is Maria Gallo. I am Dean and Director of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR), University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, and I am submitting testimony today in support of SB 524 on behalf of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 524, "Relating to Agriculture," for the purpose of establishing an agricultural development and food security program. The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa supports the intent of the bill provided it does not adversely affect our UH priorities as set in our budget request, most notably in health and safety and repairs and maintenance issues.

As noted in the text of SB 524, food security and sustainability are extremely important issues for the State of Hawai'i. The Interim Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) participated in drafting the report from the State Office of Planning entitled "Increased Food Security and Food Self-sufficiency Strategy: A State Strategic/Functional Plan Prepared in Accordance with HRS Chapter 226 Hawai'i State Plan and the Hawai'i Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy." SB 524 would provide the funding necessary to facilitate implementation of the recommendations in that report.

Within our available resources, including any resources provided by SB 524, CTAHR and the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa are prepared to lend our full support to the implementation of these recommendations. To assist in this implementation, we have provided preliminary budget information to the Chair of the Board of Agriculture for those recommendations in the report in which CTAHR would be most involved.

Thank you for your consideration of SB 524.