



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Monday, March 20, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

By

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And

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HB 694 HD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chairs Gabbard and Kim, Vice Chairs Richards and Kidani, and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment and Senate Committee on Higher Education:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 694 HD1 relating to the University of Hawai'i and appropriates funds to support the aquaculture disease diagnostic laboratory at the State Veterinary Laboratory Building in the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA), Division of Animal Industry (AI) Veterinary Laboratory Services Branch, in partnership with the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources.

HDOA has a veterinary laboratory within the Division of AI that provides disease diagnostic laboratory support for livestock, poultry, and to some extent, aquacultured animals. CTAHR has built disease diagnostic laboratory capabilities for aquacultured animals but cannot provides services to the aquaculture industry with only project-supported personnel. HB 694 HD1 provides the opportunity for HDOA in consultation with CTAHR to respond to the needs of the aquaculture industry. To ensure consistent, timely, and accurate testing services, we defer to HDOA regarding the appropriation of funds and the full-time positions in HB 694 HD 1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure and we defer to HDOA on the allocation of the funding.