



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

## TESTIMONY

HB 2145 HD2  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL TOURISM

Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Tourism & Culture

February 24, 2006

by

Dr. Andrew G. Hashimoto, Dean  
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources  
University of Hawai'i at Manoa

Testimony for  
House Bill 2145 HD 2

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I am pleased to contribute the expertise of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) to provide input to the decision-making process on House Bill 2145 HD 2.

I am in support of HB 2145 HD 2. This bill allows agricultural tourism conducted on an existing working farm or an existing farming operation, provided that the agricultural tourism activity is accessory and secondary to the principal agricultural use and does not interfere with surrounding farm operations.

I strongly support agri-tourism as an avenue for farmers and ranchers to diversify their operations. As Hawaii is known as a vacation destination, we should also be taking advantage of the many visitors coming to Hawaii looking for Hawaiian agricultural experiences.

However, there is concern that some counties do not currently have the ability to enforce existing land use ordinances in agricultural areas. Abuses in agricultural districts have existed for many years with little enforcement by the counties. Therefore, I am in support of the amendment to the bill which now requires, rather than allows, counties to establish ordinances regulating agri-tourism.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.