



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

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Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

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by

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House Bill 2774 HD 1 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Kokubun, Vice Chair Hooser, and Members of the Committee:

The purpose of the bill is to appropriate \$1,000,000 for Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation to conduct agricultural research and market development.

I support HB2774 HD1. Both agricultural research and market development are essential to the success of diversified agriculture in Hawai'i. The knowledge gained through research efforts helps producers boost their yields through informed choices about which crops and varieties to plant, when and where to plant them, how to protect them from pests, and how to optimize postharvest quality. Market development complements research by expanding the base of consumers that know and value Hawai'i's agricultural products. Bigger yields and broader markets mean increased profits and a greater contribution to Hawai'i's economy.

The Farm Bureau is an important voice for farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural producers. HFBF works closely with CTAHR and other collaborators, including the Hawaii Agriculture Resource Center (HARC), the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Pacific Basin Agricultural Research Center. Together, these organizations and agencies cooperate on research projects to improve the production of Hawai'i crops. We complement each other's efforts, minimizing overlap and assuring the broadest range of research assistance to the agricultural community. The funds described in HB2774 HD1 will be managed by the HFBF to facilitate commodities research and create new local, national, and international marketing opportunities for our agricultural goods.

For these reasons, I support HB2774 HD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.