



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Agriculture
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by
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HB 242 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Wooley, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on House Bill 242. The University of Hawai‘i supports consideration of this renovation project for UH-Maui Community College (UH-MCC), provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact the priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budget. The University of Hawaii’s CIP priorities have been presented to the Legislature.

This bill is intended to support the diversification of Hawaii’s agriculture industry. Specifically, UH-MCC’s Maui Culinary Academy (MCA) has developed products that have added value to sugar, pineapple, and grape products grown on Maui. Currently, our MCA is working with the Maui Cattle Company to develop products for non-prime cuts of beef. The MCA is committed to designing value-added products in collaboration with the Maui Nui agricultural community. The college, MCA, the Farm Bureau and other agricultural interests envision the restoration of the former kitchen in Pilina (the Student Life Center) into a research, design, and development facility for value-added agriculture related products. It is also envisioned that the area adjacent to the kitchen would offer a presentation and sampling area.

Additionally new and experimental products would be offered through the MCA Food Court on the campus to determine product marketability and consumer interest. Furthermore, the planning, repair and restoration of this Pilina facility would complement the entrepreneurship opportunities recently made available by the relocated Maui Swap Meet on to the campus.

While House Bill 242 would help to support agricultural development in Maui County, this renovation project at UH-MCC can only be supported if it does not replace or adversely impact on the CIP priorities already approved by the Board of Regents.