



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Agriculture  
January 30, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.

by

Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor

and

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Dean and Director

College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### HB 663 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

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

My name is Andrew Hashimoto, and I serve as Dean and Director of the UH Mānoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR).

The purpose of HB 663 is to direct the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources to determine the feasibility of developing an animal feed industry in the State to assist the cattle, pork, dairy, and poultry industries by providing another source for animal feed as an alternative to purchasing the feed on the mainland and transporting it to Hawai'i.

The bill further directs CTAHR to provide, minimally, the approximate existing and potential future demand for animal feed in the State; present and estimated future cost of imported feed; types of crops that would be suitable; estimated cost to produce crops to meet current and future needs; estimated total acreage required; suitable and available lands, including public lands, for growing these crops; potential sources of capital that may be available to assist in the private development of an animal feed industry in the State; and other relevant information to determine the feasibility of development of an animal feed industry in the State.

We support the intent of this bill, as a viable local animal feed industry will reduce Hawai'i's dependence on imported food and will increase Hawai'i's food self-sufficiency, will strengthen and preserve agriculture for future generations as required by our State Constitution, and supports and promotes local animal and agricultural industries, all of which are in keeping with CTAHR's vision and the Governor's 2009 State of the State address initiatives. However, we are concerned about the cost implications of conducting a study of this magnitude on our limited budget and manpower resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.