



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

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

By

Virgina S. Hinshaw, Chancellor

and

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University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 721 – 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).

HB 721 proposes to establish in the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, a task force to assess the overall structure, including vertical integration from farm to market, of the agricultural industry in the State, encompassing all types of agricultural operations, agricultural products and distribution systems.

The task force's primary task is to assess how agricultural entities and agribusinesses in the State are organized and how they relate to each other, including an investigation into all stages of development, production, processing, marketing and distribution.

While we support the intent of the bill, we are concerned about the extensive breadth of the study which encompasses many aspects of agriculture that are not sufficiently represented by the entities named on the task force. We note that agriculture in Hawai'i is highly diversified, and one task force to address this diversity is unrealistic.

We also note a need for a geographical representation of task force members, and we are concerned that the requirement that UH shall provide all administrative, professional, technical, and clerical support required by this task force, without additional funding, will require resources that we do not have.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.