



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented before the  
Joint House Committees on Agriculture  
and  
Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs  
January 29, 2010, at 9:00 a.m.  
by  
Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor  
and  
Andrew G. Hashimoto, Dean and Director  
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### HB 2410 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairs Tsuji and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Wooley and Choy, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Andrew Hashimoto, and I serve as Dean and Director of the UH Mānoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR). I am presenting testimony on behalf of Virginia Hinshaw, Chancellor of the University of Hawaii at Manoa (UHM).

HB 448 proposes to establish an agriculture working group to assess agricultural issues in the State to improve the agricultural industry, specifically to establish an agriculture working group to assess the vertical integration of the food industry in the State. The head of the working group is named as the Dean and Director of CTAHR, and the bill names five other participants, including the chairperson the Board of Agriculture or representative, the Executive Director of the Agribusiness Development Corporation or designee, a representative of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau Federation, an agricultural economist, and any other representative from the agricultural industry, to be selected by a majority of the working group.

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa supports the intent of the bill to assist and improve the agricultural industry, but opposes the bill because it provides no resources for data collection, analyses, and recommendations. All of the participants named in the bill are likewise financially strapped and understaffed, and cannot fulfill the intent of this bill without additional resources. We estimate that the cost for this effort would be \$50,000.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.