



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony presented before the
House Committee on Finance
February 24, 2012 at 1:30 p.m.

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HB 2093 HD2: RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the House Committee on Finance:

The University of Hawai'i appreciates the foresight of the legislature in its support of agriculture and agricultural sustainability in Hawai'i, and commends the legislature's interest in strengthening the development of agricultural education in the state. HB 2093 HD2 proposes a center for agricultural leadership at the University of Hawai'i with school farm projects at one high school in each county that pilot the steps necessary for achieving food safety certification through the US Department of Agriculture. It supports working collaboratively with industry and agricultural organizations, providing opportunities for agricultural teachers, and encouraging leadership and career growth for students.

Because establishing a center and pilot projects involves educational programs and locations statewide, the University respectfully recommends that the agriculture programs within the UH system first have a chance to discuss and develop plans about how best to do this. Creating a center also has budget impact and requires thoughtful planning. We would like to discuss this carefully within UH to ensure that any action we take will lead to positive outcomes that support the intent of HB 2093 HD2.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.