



# **UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM**

## **Legislative Testimony**

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Testimony presented before the  
Senate Committee on Education and  
Senate Committee on Agriculture  
March 19, 2012 at 1:15 p.m.

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### **HB 2093 HD2: RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION**

Chairs Tokuda and Nishihara, Vice Chairs Kidani and Kahele, and members of the Senate Committees on Education and Agriculture:

The University of Hawai'i appreciates the foresight of the legislature in its support of agriculture and agricultural sustainability in Hawai'i, and the intent of HB2093 HD2 to strengthen the development of agricultural education in the state. HB 2093 HD2 proposes a center for agricultural leadership at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo college of agriculture, forestry, and natural resource management. The bill would establish 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.

Establishing a center and pilot projects has resource implications for the University that include a center director position as specified in HB2093 HD2, and may also include support staff, facilities and farm space, and the development of an agricultural leadership program and curriculum that can be delivered to students in locations statewide. Intentional planning is required to map out current availability of programs and resources, additional need, and how to effectively meet the intended goal of the bill.

The University respectfully recommends that the agriculture programs within the UH system first have a chance to assess, discuss, and develop plans about how best to meet the needs stated in HB2093 HD2. We would like to have an opportunity 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 comment on this measure.