



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

S.B. #2249

Making an Appropriation for Agricultural Research and Development

Testimony Presented before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

March 2, 2004

By

Andrew G. Hashimoto
Dean, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i

Testimony for
Senate Bill 2249

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT

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The Twenty-second Legislature
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Dr. Andrew G. Hashimoto, Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

I am pleased to contribute the expertise of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) and the University of Hawai'i to the decision-making process on Senate Bill 2249, which makes a grant-in-aid to the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF) for agricultural research and market development.

Both agricultural research and market development are essential to the success of diversified agriculture in Hawai'i. The knowledge gained through research efforts helps producers boost their yields through informed choices about which crops and varieties to plant, when and where to plant them, how to protect them from pests, and how to optimize postharvest quality. Market development complements research by expanding the base of consumers that know and value Hawai'i's agricultural products. Bigger yields and broader markets mean increased profits and a greater contribution to Hawai'i's economy.

One of CTAHR's chief collaborators in the necessary business of agricultural research is the Hawaii Agriculture Resource Center (HARC). CTAHR and HARC cooperate in research projects on many of Hawai'i's diversified crops. We also complement each other's efforts, minimizing overlap and assuring the broadest range of research assistance to the agricultural community.

The Farm Bureau is an important voice for farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural producers. The grant money described in SB2249 will be managed by the HFBF to facilitate commodities research and create new local, national, and international marketing opportunities for our agricultural goods. The funds appropriated by this bill will ultimately be dispersed to HARC.

We support the intent of SB2249. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.