



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

SB 2478
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR AGRICULTURAL
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Testimony Presented Before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

February 27, 2006

by

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

Testimony for
Senate Bill 2478

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Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Members of the Committee:

I am pleased to contribute the expertise of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) and the University of Hawai'i to provide input to the decision-making process on Senate Bill 2478, which appropriates \$1 million for Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF) to conduct agricultural research and market development.

I support SB2478. 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.

The Farm Bureau is an important voice for farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural producers. HFBF works closely with CTAHR and other collaborators, including the Hawaii Agriculture Resource Center (HARC), the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Pacific Basin Agricultural Research Center. Together, these organizations and agencies cooperate on research projects to improve the production of Hawai'i crops. We complement each other's efforts, minimizing overlap and assuring the broadest range of research assistance to the agricultural community. The funds described in SB2478 will be managed by the HFBF to facilitate commodities research and create new local, national, and international marketing opportunities for our agricultural goods.

For these reasons, I support SB2478. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.