



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented before the
Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs
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by
Andrew G. Hashimoto, Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 1719, Relating to the Department of Agriculture Loans

Chair Kokubun, Vice Chair Tokuda, and Members of the Committee:

The purpose of SB 1719 is to increase from \$25,000 to \$50,000 the chairperson's authority to approve agricultural loans and aquacultural loans.

The University supports SB 1719.

The dean of CTAHR serves as an ex-officio member of the Hawai'i Board of Agriculture. At present, loan requests above \$25,000 must be approved by the Board of Agriculture. This bill raises the monetary limit at which staff can make decisions on the appropriateness of loans. Most of these loan requests are straightforward, and staff members are very capable of making the appropriate decisions regarding loans up to \$50,000.

These loans help farmers meet the challenges posed by Hawai'i's high costs for land, water, transportation, labor, supplies, and equipment. By increasing the size of the loans that the HDOA chair is authorized to approve, SB 1719 will help Hawai'i's agricultural and aquacultural producers acquire the resources they need to maintain and expand their operations.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.