



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Written Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Agriculture,  
Senate Committee on Higher Education  
and  
Senate Committee on Economic Development, Government Operations and Housing  
Thursday, January 30, 2014 at 2:50 pm  
by  
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and  
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### SB 2400 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairs Nishihara, Taniguchi and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Kouchi, Kahele and Slom, and members of the committees, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 2400, that has the Agribusiness Development Corporation and the University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources working together to design a program that creates new farmers by identifying emerging crops and productive uses for lands managed by the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) and to design a program to prepare a workforce to cultivate these lands.

The Legislature and the people of Hawai'i have an increasing sense of urgency with respect to food security. The College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR), University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, through its research, instruction and extension, has been assisting and training farmers in Hawai'i for more than 100 years. CTAHR's major focus is production agriculture which is a crucial component of a healthy economy.

Presently, we are finalizing an MOU with ADC to specify partnering with regard to establishing successful farming operations on particular lands. We see a strong role for CTAHR in providing extension services to tenants as well as conducting relevant research to maximize the potential of this agricultural resource for the people of Hawai'i.

SB 2400 would allow the State to benefit greatly by leveraging CTAHR's expertise with ADC to foster diversified agriculture.

Thank you again for the opportunity to express our support for SB 2400.