



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Written Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Agriculture  
and

Senate Committee on Higher Education  
Thursday, January 30, 2014 at 3:00 pm

by  
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Dean

College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### SB 2455 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairs Nishihara and Taniguchi, Vice Chairs Kouchi and Kahele, and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and the Senate Committee on Higher Education, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 2455, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawai'i, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources to operate and implement the 4-H program, Effective 7/1/2014.

We support this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the University's Board of Regents Approved Executive Biennium Budget.

4-H, under the direction of Cooperative Extension Service (CES) faculty within the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR), University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, is one of the oldest and most effective programs of non-formal education in Hawai'i. 4-H assists young people age 5-19 in developing life skills and in forming attitudes that will enable them to become self-directing, productive, and contributing members of society, and touches approximately 35,000 young people annually throughout the State of Hawai'i. The four H's stand for Head, Heart, Hands, and Health.

The key to both the longevity and the relevance of 4-H to today's youth is the flexibility of the program. Although its projects in livestock and crop education are well-known and very successful, 4-H members may also learn about food and nutrition, clothing, health, safety, the environment, and leadership. As a future-looking organization, 4-H's new programs even range from aerospace to theatrics to food safety.

Growth and sustained success of 4-H in Hawai'i is limited only by the availability of resources. SB 2762 will contribute to the resources necessary to sustain this successful youth development program, and we thank you again for the opportunity to express our support for this bill.