



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education
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by

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and

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SB 2455 SD1 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Choy, Vice Chair Ichiyama and members of the House Committee on Higher Education, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 2455 SD1, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawai'i, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources to operate and implement the 4-H program.

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.

We are in agreement with the recommendation of committee report SSCR2063 that an amount of \$120,000 be provided. These funds will be used to employ staff to assist with program development, and to provide support for the annual 4-H livestock show, a culminating event in the livestock educational program for young people in the State of Hawai'i.

Growth and sustained success of 4-H in Hawai'i is limited only by the availability of resources. SB 2455 SD1 will contribute resources necessary to sustain this successful youth development program, and we thank you again for the opportunity to express our support for this bill.