



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Written Testimony Submitted to the  
House Committee on Finance  
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by  
Maria Gallo, Dean  
and

J. Kenneth Grace, Interim Associate Dean  
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### SB 3023 SD2 – MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND MARKETING OF THE ULU BREADFRUIT

Chair Luke, Vice Chairs Nishimoto and Johanson, and members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 3023 SD2, which makes an unspecified appropriation to the Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC) for research, development, and marketing of 'ulu (the Hawaiian breadfruit).

Prior to European contact in the 1700s, and into the early 1880s, 'ulu groves were a common feature of the landscape and Hawaiian agriculture. The enormous 'ulu plantations of west Hawai'i Island fascinated early European visitors. However, by the late 1800s, these groves had all but vanished due to depopulation and changing land use patterns. Clearly, 'ulu is readily cultivated in Hawai'i, but is essentially nonexistent today as a commercial crop or food staple.

The Breadfruit Institute of the National Botanical Garden has credited the 2004 CTAHR publication "Hawaiian Breadfruit – Ethnobotany, Nutrition, and Human Ecology" with providing a blueprint for modern efforts to revitalize breadfruit in Hawai'i. We believe in the potential for 'ulu to again become a common fixture of our agricultural landscape, a valuable commercial crop and an important part of food security and self-sufficiency in Hawai'i.

CTAHR faculty are currently involved in efforts to address 'ulu cultivation and processing difficulties and develop new products such as gluten-free 'ulu flour. We support SB 3023 SD2 as a promising vehicle to expand and strengthen interagency efforts to develop 'ulu as a useful and valuable crop for Hawai'i.