

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
Governor

**SHAN S. TSUTSUI**  
Lt. Governor



**SCOTT E. ENRIGHT**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

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**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
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**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT**  
**CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

April 6, 2015  
9:05 A.M.

**CONFERENCE ROOM 211**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 850 HD 1, SD 1**  
**RELATING TO THE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE**

Chairperson Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 850 HD 1, SD 1. This bill appropriates moneys for critical positions in the UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources Cooperative Extension Service. The Department is in support of this bill provided it does not adversely impact the priorities in the Administration's budget.

Extension agents play a critical role in providing education and on-the-ground outreach to our farmers and ranchers. In the past, they have served as key resources helping farmers to deal with pest issues and to provide practical applications for research being conducted at the university. Extension agents also serve as a conduit through which greater ties between the community and the agricultural industry can be formed.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.





# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Written Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Monday, April 6, 2015 at 9:05 am

By

Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor

And

Maria Gallo, Dean

And

J. Kenneth Grace, Associate Dean

College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### HB 850 HD1 SD1 – RELATING TO THE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 850 SD1, which provides funding for critical positions in the Cooperative Extension Service under the direction of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

We strongly 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.

The Cooperative Extension Service is the means by which the Land Grant university system extends the results of research to directly assist agriculture and the public in each state. Among the 50 states, Hawai'i is virtually unique in its support of agricultural research and extension, along with all other university functions, solely through the single budget line of the University of Hawai'i. In recognition of the unique nature of agricultural extension, and to a lesser extent agricultural research, other states choose to provide a budget line specifically for these core Land Grant activities. In the absence of such a funding mechanism, extension service functions potentially suffer to a greater extent than other university functions during periods of fiscal austerity. Tuition-driven university budget models may also have the unforeseen effect of disincentivizing extension functions.

Hawai'i is also unique among all the states in that the four county governments make no set contribution to the costs of the extension service. The program funding that several are willing to provide is greatly appreciated, but core infrastructure support is absent.

As a result of the above-described factors, the extension faculty workforce in the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources has decreased 43% over the past 20 years, and 27% over the past six years alone. Retirements and resignations are a normal occurrence, but the present budget situation prevents replacement of many vacant positions. Again, a focus on university budget reductions and increasing tuition revenue does not support extension staffing at optimal levels.

At the same time, the legislature and the people of Hawai'i have an increasing sense of urgency with respect to food security. This includes a need for accelerated training to assist new farmers, with an emphasis on farming practices that will decrease Hawai'i's need for imported and expensive farming inputs; and a concomitant need to ensure that appropriate good agriculture practices are followed and safe food reaches our plates. In order to reduce our

reliance on imported food, and also ensure that farming in Hawai'i remains a viable occupation, our farmers need to be well-trained in both farm/ranch production methods and in practices that will ensure the safety of the food they produce without increasing production costs unreasonably.

Each of the positions identified in the bill represents a state need, and will serve as a resource across the state, as well as filling manpower gaps within their home county and freeing time on the part of current agents to provide better service to their agricultural clientele. In addition to filling immediate needs, HB 850 SD1 provides the time needed to work on inclusion of extension functions in the budget models currently being developed within the university.

HB 850 HD1 would strengthen the eroding agricultural extension infrastructure in Hawai'i by appropriating \$700,000 per year for eight temporary extension agent positions, two in each county, for a two-year period. We recognize that there are many demands on the Legislature, and even one position in each county (four positions total), at half of this amount, would help to alleviate current shortages.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 850 SD1.

**COUNTY COUNCIL**

Mel Rapozo, Chair  
Ross Kagawa, Vice Chair  
Mason K. Chock  
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KipuKai Kualii  
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April 6, 2015

**TESTIMONY OF KIPUKAI KUALII**  
**COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**ON**

**HB 850, HD 1, SD 1, Relating to the Agricultural Extension Service**  
**Senate Committee on Ways and Means**  
**Monday, April 6, 2015**  
**9:05 a.m.**  
**Conference Room 211**

Dear Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of HB 850, HD 1, SD 1, Relating to the Agricultural Extension Service. My testimony is submitted in my capacity as the Economic Development & Intergovernmental Relations Committee Chair and as an individual Councilmember on the Kaua'i County Council.

The University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources Cooperative Extension Service works very closely with the Kaua'i County Farm Bureau, and are partners in various agricultural events for Kaua'i's community. Many events not only provide educational opportunities for farmers and ranchers, but invite the *keiki* to experience various environmental and agricultural fields of work. Appropriating funds to support critical unfunded positions in the program will continue the one-on-one experience between farmers/ranchers and representatives from the program, and will continue providing valuable tools for the public to strengthen the agricultural community and the agricultural economy.

For the reasons stated above, I strongly encourage the Senate Committee on Ways and Means to support this measure. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188.

Sincerely,

**KIPUKAI KUALII**  
Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council



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April 6, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

TESTIMONY ON HB 850 HD 1 SD 1  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

Room 211  
9:05 AM

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Chair Ruderman, Vice Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Riviere and Members of the Committees:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,932 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interest of our diverse agricultural community.

**HFB strongly supports HB 850 HD 1 SD 1**, which appropriates moneys for critical positions in the University of Hawaii, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) Cooperative Extension Service.

The excellent work performed by UH CTAHR's cooperative extension service cannot be overstated. The ongoing outreach and education is unparalleled in the State. Farmers and ranchers rely on this program for their very success. Identifying education regarding agricultural sciences and food safety as priorities is important; particularly the latter which will presumably help producers navigate the myriad regulations reflected in the USFDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). Please allocate all necessary resources toward this critically important program. Agriculture in Hawaii depends upon it.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support on this measure of vital importance.