

HB 850

Testimony –

Measure Title: RELATING TO THE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE.

Report Title: CTAHR Cooperative Extension Service; Position Funding; Appropriation (\$)

Description: Appropriates funds for critical positions in the cooperative extension service administered by the UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. (HB850 HD1)

Companion: SB314

Package: None

Current Referral: HEA/AGL, WAM

Introducer(s): ONISHI, BROWER, CREAGAN, EVANS, ICHIYAMA, ITO, KAWAKAMI, LOWEN, MORIKAWA, NAKASHIMA, OHNO, SAIKI, SOUKI, TOKIOKA, TSUJI, Cachola, Choy, San Buenaventura

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
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TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE ARTS
AND AGRICULTURE

March 19, 2015
1:30 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224

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

Chairpersons Taniguchi and Ruderman and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 850 HD 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

Written Only

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts
And

Senate Committee on Agriculture
Thursday, March 19, 2015 at 1:30 pm

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 – RELATING TO THE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

Chairs Taniguchi and Ruderman, Vice Chairs Inouye and Riviere, and members of the committees, thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 850 HD1, 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 supporting 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 HD1 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 HD1.



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
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March 19, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION & THE ARTS
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 850 HD 1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

Room 224
1:30 PM

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, 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.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Cc: legechair@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB850 on Mar 19, 2015 13:30PM
Date: Monday, March 16, 2015 5:19:47 PM

HB850

Submitted on: 3/16/2015

Testimony for HEA/AGL on Mar 19, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Simon Russell	Hawaii Farmers Union United	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Kakou, HFUU supports more agricultural extension agents, and we are in strong support of this measure. With Aloha, Simon Russell Hawaii Farmers Union United Legislative Committee Chairman

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Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

P O Box 437199 Kamuela HI 96743
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e-mail: HCattlemens@hawaii.rr.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION & ARTS SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

March 19, 2015 1:30 p.m. Room 224

HB 850 HD 1 RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

Appropriates moneys for critical positions in UH College of Tropical Agriculture and
Human Resources Cooperative Extension Service.

Chair Taniguchi, Chair Ruderman and Members of the Committees:

My name is Alan Gottlieb, and I am a rancher and the Government Affairs Chair for the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc. (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the five county level Cattlemen's Associations. Our 130+ member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of approximately 25% of the State's total land mass.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **strongly supports HB 850 HD 1.**

The extension service has lost a number of extension agents over the past 20 years. The lack of a livestock extension agent on Maui for the past several years, since a retirement, has left a huge void for the Maui Cattle Industry. Other commodities also need extension agents as requested in this bill. Please support this bill.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify in favor of this very important issue.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Cc: warrenmcfb@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB850 on Mar 19, 2015 13:30PM*
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 8:46:03 PM

HB850

Submitted on: 3/17/2015

Testimony for HEA/AGL on Mar 19, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Warren Watanabe	Maui County Farm Bureau	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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Cc: darakawa@lurf.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB850 on Mar 19, 2015 13:30PM
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 12:13:28 AM

HB850

Submitted on: 3/17/2015

Testimony for HEA/AGL on Mar 19, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Z. Arakawa	Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments: The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii SUPPORTS HB 850, HD1, RELATING TO THE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE, which appropriates funds for critical positions in the cooperative extension service administered by the UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. (HB 850 HD1)

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To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Cc: nredfeather@kohalacenter.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB850 on Mar 19, 2015 13:30PM
Date: Monday, March 16, 2015 2:28:43 PM

HB850

Submitted on: 3/16/2015

Testimony for HEA/AGL on Mar 19, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Redfeather	Hawaii Island School Garden Network	Support	No

Comments: CTAHR Extension provides invaluable services between the agriculture, education, and greater communities. They understand developing community partnerships and bringing expertise and capacity to our work of rebuilding a local food system. They need more support and funding.

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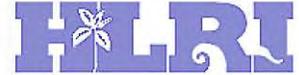
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E KŪPAKU KA 'ĀINA

THE HAWAII LAND RESTORATION INSTITUTE

E KŪPAKU KA 'ĀINA – THE HAWAII LAND RESTORATION INSTITUTE
bringing severely degraded lands back to places of ecological health and abundance



TESTIMONY

HB850 HD1 Relating to the Agriculture Extension Service
before the Senate Committees on Agriculture and Higher Education and the Arts
Thursday, 19 March 2015, Rm 224 1:30PM

Board of Directors

Ana Zir, President

Michelle Cockett, VP

Deborah Ward, Secretary

Juenlee Brown, Treasurer

Project Coordinator

Penny Levin

Aloha Honorable Chair and Committee Members;

E kūpaku ka 'āina – the Hawai'i Land Restoration Institute (EKKA) supports this measure with an amendment.

EKKA is a Maui-based, registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit whose mission is *bringing severely degraded lands back to places of ecological health and abundance*. We are dedicated to fostering an economy of abundance through the critical business of land restoration and the art of traditional cultural practice. We do so by assisting agencies, organizations, landowners and communities to develop practical skills and affordable strategies for degraded lands and native ecosystems recovery and agriculture fit to the land - because if the 'āina is not well, neither are we.

Along with habitat restoration, EKKA has been engaged in taro lands revitalization projects and the recovery of the Hawaiian kalo varieties in partnership with many individuals, botanical gardens, and organizations, including the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources and the UH Harold L. Lyon Arboretum Hawaiian Rare Plant Program Micropropagation Laboratory.

For the last three years, EKKA has facilitated direct funding of a full time Agriculture Research Tech IV position at the UH CTAHR Moloka'i Research and Demonstration Farm in Ho'olehua specifically to assist the CES agent/manager at the station in the protection and expansion of the Hawaiian taro cultivar collection. Grants also provided additional funding for irrigation, soil amendments and two acres of deer-proof fence. This allowed the station to increase its taro plantings three-fold, to distribute almost 40,000 huli over the last two years to interested growers, and to improve collections at other CTAHR research stations and botanical collections statewide. In 2015, the Ag Research Tech IV position includes the additional task of outreach and follow-up with subsistence taro growers within the community of Moloka'i. The total direct funding of this project since 2011 has been \$265,664 to date.

This support was not meant to be in perpetuity but rather to leverage resources towards a more securely funded position. EKKA has discussed with CTAHR the importance of this position to increasing indigenous crop and sustainability and local food security, and the need for the university to take over the funding of this position. The annual cost of this position, including fringe, has been just over \$47,000 annually.

EKKA respectfully requests that HB850 HD1 be amended as follows, with sufficient budget to extend this position for five years.

SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the following positions in the cooperative extension service administered by the University of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and human resources:

- (1) One full-time equivalent (1.00 FTE) livestock agent in the county of Maui;
- (2) One full-time equivalent (1.00 FTE) organic agriculture agent in the county of Maui;
- (3) One full-time equivalent (1.00 FTE) food crops agent in the city and county of Honolulu;
- (4) One full-time equivalent (1.00 FTE) irrigation and water resources agent in the city and county of Honolulu;
- (5) One full-time equivalent (1.00 FTE) tree crops agent in Hawaii county;
- (6) One full-time equivalent (1.00 FTE) farm food safety agent in Hawaii county;

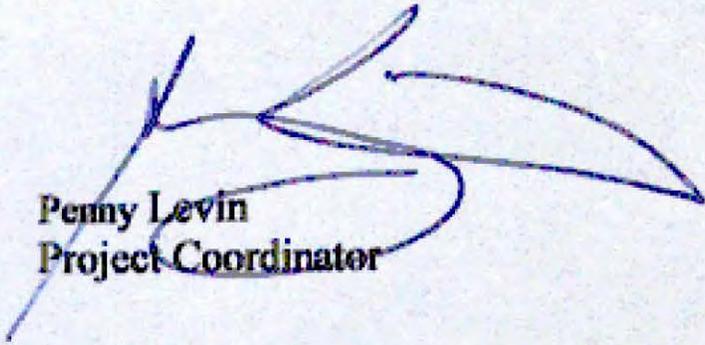
E KŪPAKU KA 'ĀINA – THE HAWAII LAND RESTORATION INSTITUTE

bringing severely degraded lands back to places of ecological health and abundance

- (7) One full-time equivalent (1.00 FTE) plant disease management agent in the county of Kauai; and
- (8) One full-time equivalent (1.00 FTE) insect pest management agent in the county of Kauai.
- (9) One full-time equivalent (1.00 FTE) agriculture research technician IV at the Molokai research and demonstration farm in the county of Maui.

We look forward to the support of the members of the Committees on Agriculture and Higher Education and the Arts on HB850 HD1.

Mahalo,



**Penny Levin
Project Coordinator**

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB850 on Mar 19, 2015 13:30PM*
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 4:32:04 PM

HB850

Submitted on: 3/17/2015

Testimony for HEA/AGL on Mar 19, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts and the Committee on Agriculture
Thursday, March 19, 2015; 1:30 pm
by
Jensen Uyeda

HB 850, HD 1 RELATING TO THE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Inouye, and members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts. Chair Ruderman, Vice Chair Riviere, and the members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture. Thank you for this opportunity to provide personal testimony in strong support of HB 850, HD 1 that provides funding for critical position in the Cooperative Extension Service of the University of Hawaii at Manoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources.

My name is Jensen Uyeda and I am from Mililani, Oahu and employed as a Junior Extension Agent by the University of Hawaii at Manoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (UH CTAHR). Today, I am providing personal testimony. I am in strong support of 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 College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources serves as the land grant college that has been federally mandated to provide Cooperative Extension Services (CES) to disseminate research-based information. Historically, individuals, organizations, and communities have turned to the CTAHR for assistance in developing solutions to their critical and emerging problems.

Hawaii's dynamic agriculture industry has prompted the need for responsive, cooperative educational programs in sustainable and responsible farming, marketing, pest management, risk management, and environmental stewardship.

Extension agents are the channel to which agricultural producers access research based information, knowledge, and skills that help correctly identify and utilize specific technology and practices. The UH CTAHR Cooperative Extension Service serves four (4) counties in Hawaii, which are located on five (5) islands within the Hawaiian island chain. Agents are limited in numbers, geographically separated, and must deal with diverse conditions unique to each location. Further, agricultural research that applies to the continental United States is not always applicable to Hawaii's conditions.

Continued applied research, on farm field trials, and retention of Extension Agent positions are needed to fill vacancy gaps and retain our ability to answer emerging and re-occurring issues in support of Hawaii's agriculture.

I believe that bill HB 850, HD 1 has much merit. I strongly recommend that it be funded. Ongoing funding to support CTAHR is crucial to the sustainability of Hawaii's diversified agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my strong support for HB 850, HD 1.

Jensen Uyeda, Mililani, Oahu

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Cc: leimomikekina@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB850 on Mar 19, 2015 13:30PM*
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 8:47:19 PM

HB850

Submitted on: 3/17/2015

Testimony for HEA/AGL on Mar 19, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimomi Dierks	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB850 on Mar 19, 2015 13:30PM*
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HB850

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for HEA/AGL on Mar 19, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randy Cabral	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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