



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

---

Written Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Higher Education  
Thursday, February 12, 2015 at 2:03 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

Chair Choy, Vice Chair Ichiyama and members of the House Committee on Higher Education, thank you for this opportunity to testify in 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 28% over the past six years. 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.

HB 850 HD1 will strengthen the eroding agricultural extension infrastructure in Hawai'i by appropriating funding for eight extension agent positions, two in each county, for a two year period. 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.

Thanks for this opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 850 HD1.

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
Governor

**SHAN S. TSUTSUI**  
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

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

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

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

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION**

February 12, 2015  
2:03 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 309

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

Chairperson Choy and Members of the Committee:

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 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 can be formed between the community and the agricultural industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.





# Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

Testimony for the Twenty Eighth Legislature, 2015  
State of Hawaii

## COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Chair  
Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 12, 2015  
2:03 PM  
Conference Room 309  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

A bill for an act

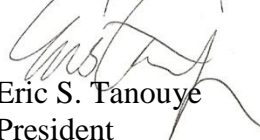
### **HB850HD1** RELATING TO THE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

My name is Eric S. Tanouye and I am the President for the Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association. HFNA is a statewide umbrella organization with approximately 300 members. Our membership is made up with breeders, hybridizers, propagators, growers, shippers, wholesalers, retailers, educators, and the allied industry, which supports our efforts in agriculture.

We **SUPPORT** HB850HD1 and believe it is important to have Extension Agent positions filled as they serve an important part to Hawaii's Agriculture Industry.

We ask you to consider supporting HB850. If you have any questions at this time, I would be happy to discuss them and can be reached by phone at 808-959-3535 ext 22, cell 960-1433 and email [eric@greenpointnursery.com](mailto:eric@greenpointnursery.com).

Supporting Agriculture and Hawaii,



Eric S. Tanouye  
President

Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

**ichiyama2-Brandon**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2015 8:36 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** warrenmcfb@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB850 on Feb 12, 2015 14:03PM\*

**HB850**

Submitted on: 2/10/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 12, 2015 14:03PM in Conference Room 309

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

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**ichiyama2-Brandon**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 11, 2015 1:21 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** alan.takemoto@monsanto.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB850 on Feb 12, 2015 14:03PM

**HB850**

Submitted on: 2/11/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 12, 2015 14:03PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alan Takemoto	Monsanto Hawaii	Support	No

Comments: Extension agents is one of the most important positions that connect research to real farm production issues. This will help Hawaii's farmers and ranchers to maintain and expand their operations. Please support this measure.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**ichiyama2-Brandon**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2015 6:01 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** rhcabral@rhomac.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB850 on Feb 12, 2015 14:03PM\*

**HB850**

Submitted on: 2/10/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 12, 2015 14:03PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Randy Cabral	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Testimony **Supporting HB850** HD1:

I am an Assistant Professor of Applied Entomology at UH Hilo, College of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resource Management, and I am testifying on behalf of myself.

Cooperative Extension Service Extension Agents serve an invaluable role in Hawaii, and throughout the United States. It is essential to fund extension agents to obtain the best information for assisting the public in proper crop production in the safest and most environmentally friendly manners.

I have witnessed the decrease in extension agents across the country since I began my formal education in the Land-Grant University system in 2002, and I have seen how **unbiased** and properly informed best management practices have suffered because of this.

Especially in Hawaii, where our farmers do not farm only a few large commodities, **we need extremely well-informed and diverse extension agents** (and many of them) to have the capacity to research, apply, and inform crop management needs for all residents of the State.

Finally, as a professor teaching some aspects of agricultural management, I use understanding extension agent agriculture bulletins and literature as one of the major expectations I have of my students by the end of their degree. Students in my classes will have the knowledge and skills needed to find, read, understand and APPLY the relevant extension agent bulletins and literature that extension agent create to address needs in agriculture and natural resource management. There are not nearly enough recent extension bulletins for properly managing our diverse agriculture needs in the state.

**Hiring these needed extension agent positions is the first step toward rebuilding our State's diversified agriculture system and related jobs.**

Sincerely,

Jesse Eiben, PhD



**ichiyama2-Brandon**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2015 4:44 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** jj@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB850 on Feb 12, 2015 14:03PM

**HB850**

Submitted on: 2/10/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 12, 2015 14:03PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jeanette Fontanive	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Extension Agents are critical assets on Maui. Please do all you can to fully fund these positions.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**ichiyama2-Brandon**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 11, 2015 11:26 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** gkama@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB850 on Feb 12, 2015 14:03PM

**HB850**

Submitted on: 2/11/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 12, 2015 14:03PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gwen Morinaga-Kama	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a certified Maui Master Gardener, I have seen the valuable work of our County Extension Agents. Needless to say, Maui County is definitely short a few agents. One is desperately needed for our livestock & poultry producers, as well as for our urban gardeners. Please approve HB 850 and appropriate \$\$\$ for Maui County Extension agent positions. Mahalo.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

**ichiyama2-Brandon**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 11, 2015 1:12 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** papayas@aloha.net  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB850 on Feb 12, 2015 14:03PM\*

**HB850**

Submitted on: 2/11/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 12, 2015 14:03PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Karen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

## ichiyama2-Brandon

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 11, 2015 12:39 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** ken.ogawa@cpsagu.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB850 on Feb 12, 2015 14:03PM

### **HB850**

Submitted on: 2/11/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 12, 2015 14:03PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
KEN OGAWA	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Aloha, Please support HB #'s 850 & 1039 regarding funding University of Hawaii Extension agents and support the LIFE PROGRAM. We are critically lacking GOOD extension agents that are able to help our farmers in the field and also rely on the LIFE Program to help to educate our immigrant farmers produce healthy, sustainable crops for all of us, as well as so they can provide for themselves and their families. It's extremely important to keep agriculture in Hawaii alive and well so we don't have to rely on produce and fruits coming in from the continental US and foreign countries. Thank you, very much. Ken Ogawa Hilo, HI

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

## ichiyama2-Brandon

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 11, 2015 1:39 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** gr82bfrienz@aol.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB850 on Feb 12, 2015 14:03PM

### **HB850**

Submitted on: 2/11/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 12, 2015 14:03PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kelvin Sewake	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha! My name is Kelvin Sewake and I have been a County Extension Agent with the University of Hawaii at Manoa's CTAHR for almost 30 years now. I am testifying in strong support of funding for CTAHR's Extension Agent positions. I am testifying personally as a private citizen and not representing UH, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the University's Board of Regents Approved Executive Biennium Budget. Extension Agents are the critical link between researchers and farmers providing research-based information through effective educational programs tailored to their specific clientele. Extension agents collaborate with industry organizations and with individual farmers in conducting needs assessments and develop a wide range of educational programs based on the highest priorities of the industry. These needs are communicated to researchers and other government agencies to address those needs and resolve problems. While having specific areas of expertise, Extension Agents are generalists in their duties and assist farmers in all aspects of farming such as breeding, propagation, production practices, pest management and invasive species, pesticide usage and safety, soil fertility, irrigation, greenhouse design, business planning, postharvest handling, food safety, crop insurance, risk management, promotion and marketing, and more. In this way, Extension Agents play a significant and very unique role in helping farmers to obtain and utilize the best information available in order for them to make sound decisions, thereby reducing the many risks and challenges that they face while ensuring steady growth in Hawaii's agricultural industry. Please consider funding for CTAHR's Extension Agent positions as the numbers of agents have declined drastically and because they are essential to the hard-working and dedicated farmers of Hawaii. Mahalo!

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**ichiyama2-Brandon**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 11, 2015 11:53 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** farmboyhawaii@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB850 on Feb 12, 2015 14:03PM\*

**HB850**

Submitted on: 2/11/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 12, 2015 14:03PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ross Sibucac	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

## ichiyama2-Brandon

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2015 8:06 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** ncsugano@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB850 on Feb 12, 2015 14:03PM

### HB850

Submitted on: 2/10/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 12, 2015 14:03PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jari S.K. Sugano	Individual	Support	No

Comments: February 9, 2015 HB 850 FUNDING OF THE UH CTAHR COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE Chair Choy, Vice Chair Ichiyama and members of the House Higher Education Committee, I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB850 relating to the Cooperative Extension Service of the University of Hawaii, at Manoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. I 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. Let me state from the onset of this testimony that, as a member of the faculty at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, it is important to note that I support the prioritization process that the administration utilizes to establish their annual budgetary request to the legislature and can only advocate for additional funding of university programs if it does not negatively impact existing requests that are included in the executive budget. My name is Jari Sugano and I am a County Extension Agent at UH Manoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. Today, I am providing personal testimony. Each land grant university has a federally mandated Cooperative Extension Service (CES) associated with its institution to disseminate research-based information to the public at large. The College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) serves as the land grant college of the University of Hawai'i (UH). Historically, individuals, organizations, and communities have turned to the CTAHR for assistance in developing solutions to their critical and emerging problems. Agriculture in Hawaii that was once dominated by the sugar and pineapple industry has shifted towards a diversified agricultural system. Small acreage and family owned farms now account for majority of Hawaii's agriculture industry. Based on the 2007 USDA Census of Hawaii Agriculture, sixty-four percent of farms in Hawaii are less than 10 acres in size. Eighty-five percent of farms are individually or family operated. New pests and diseases continue to invade Hawaii's borders, regulations intensify, marketing issues become more complex, and growers are faced with new challenges that threaten the expansion and advancement of Hawaii's diversified agriculture sector. A change in Hawaii's agriculture industry has prompted a need for responsive, cooperative educational programs in responsible farming, marketing, pest management, risk management and environmental stewardship. The economic success of producers relies on their ability to adapt farming principles and practices to integrate latest and relevant technology and research developments. UH CTAHR Cooperative Extension Service utilizes a variety of delivery methods or channels to bring the latest research based information to the attention of clients. This includes the utilization of extension agents. Extension agents transfer research based information, knowledge, and skills that help agricultural producers correctly choose and utilize specific technology and practices best suited to meet their diverse educational needs (Bennett, 1990). This information enables agricultural producers to make informed decisions. The UH CTAHR Cooperative Extension Service

serves four counties in Hawaii, which are located on 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 agriculture. I believe that bill HB 850 has much merit. I strongly recommend that it be funded. Ongoing funding to support at CTAHR is crucial to the sustainability of Hawaii's diversified agriculture. Thank you for the opportunity to express our strong support for HB 850.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)



Written Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Higher Education  
Thursday, February 12, 2015; 2:03 pm  
by  
Jensen Uyeda

HB 850, HD 1 RELATING TO THE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

Chair Choy, Vice Chair Ichiyama, and members of the House Committee on Higher Education, thank you for this opportunity to provide personal testimony in strong support of HB 850, HD 1 which 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



**LATE**

P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759  
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921  
e-mail [info@hfbf.org](mailto:info@hfbf.org); [www.hfbf.org](http://www.hfbf.org)

February 12, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

TESTIMONY ON HB 850, HD 1  
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COLLEGE OF  
TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES COOPERATIVE EXTENSION  
SERVICE

Room 309  
2:03 PM

Aloha Chair Choy, Vice Chair Ichiyama, and Members of the Committee:

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 stands in strong support of 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.

**ichiyama2-Brandon**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2015 6:49 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** slfarm@interpac.net  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB850 on Feb 12, 2015 14:03PM\*



**HB850**

Submitted on: 2/12/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 12, 2015 14:03PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shinichi Ichimaru	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**ichiyama2-Brandon**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2015 10:35 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** jpappas60@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB850 on Feb 12, 2015 14:03PM



**HB850**

Submitted on: 2/12/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 12, 2015 14:03PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Janet Pappas	Individual	Support	No

Comments: With Hawaii's strong interest in becoming food secure, we must make smart investments in knowledgeable ag personnel who can be a resource to farmers--especially to small fruit and vegetable farmers and first-time farmers. Extension agents have proven their worth over the years. Now is the time to lay the groundwork for a strong, local agricultural system that can provide fresh, healthy produce for the people of Hawaii. The addition of extension agents on each island will be a significant resource in achieving our food security goal.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)