

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
Governor

**JOSH GREEN**  
Lt. Governor



**PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture  
**MORRIS ATTA**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
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**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER**  
**CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**MARCH 2, 2021**  
**11:00 A.M.**  
**VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 770 HD1**  
**RELATING TO HEALTH**

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 770 HD1. This measure establishes a task force to review and recommend specific actions to ensure that Hawaii's food imports are sourced, transported, stored, and distributed in compliance with the federal Food Safety Modernization Act; and develop specific recommendations to ensure that all foods and brands imported into Hawaii do not mislead or confuse the public through packaging or advertising that imply imported food's origin is from Hawaii or has the same freshness or qualities as food that is locally grown or produced. The Department of Agriculture supports the intent of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Finance  
Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.

By  
Nicholas Comerford, Dean  
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 770 HD1 – RELATING TO HEALTH

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the House Committee on Finance:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of the intent of HB 770 HD1 relating to health.

The College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources in the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM/CTAHR) is involved in food safety in a number of ways. Our Cooperative Extension program trains farmers in food safety, Gap Analysis and Food Safety Modernization Act regulations. Our Food Science program produces undergraduate degrees in this area and has a research program that has made significant strides in reducing obesity in children throughout the Pacific Basin. We do have the expertise among our faculty to participate in such a task force.

Therefore, we support the intent of this bill.