

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

976

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 24 2015

RE: H.B. No. 850
H.D. 1
S.D. 1

Honorable Donna Mercado Kim
President of the Senate
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2015
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committees on Higher Education and the Arts and
Agriculture, to which was referred H.B. No. 850, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION
SERVICE,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to appropriate
funds for critical positions in the Cooperative Extension Service
administered by the University of Hawaii College of Tropical
Agriculture and Human Resources.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure
from the Department of Agriculture; University of Hawaii System;
Hawaii Farm Bureau; Hawaii Farmers Union United; Hawaii
Cattlemen's Council, Inc.; Maui County Farm Bureau; Land Use
Research Foundation of Hawaii; Hawaii Island School Garden
Network; Hawaii Land Restoration Institute; and four individuals.

Your Committees find that extension agents play a critical
role in providing education and on-the-ground outreach to farmers
and ranchers statewide. Extension agents also serve as a key
resource to help farmers to contain pest issues and provide
practical applications for research being conducted at the
University of Hawaii.

Your Committees also find that the extension faculty
workforce in the University of Hawaii College of Tropical

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Agriculture and Human Resources has decreased significantly over the past twenty years, and in particular, over the past six years. This decreased faculty workforce has occurred as a result of typical retirements and resignations. However, the unique and strained budgeting system, upon which the Cooperative Extension Service is entirely dependent, has prevented the filling of many vacant positions.

Your Committees further find that the Legislature and the people of Hawaii are experiencing an increasing sense of urgency to ensure the continued food security of the State. Food security encompasses a wide range of policies and safeguards, including accelerated training to assist new farmers on safety measures and general farming practices aimed toward decreasing the need for expensive food importation. Extension agents that are deliberately and adequately dispersed throughout the islands provide an increased likelihood of reaching food security and sustainable agricultural practices statewide. This measure would fill immediate needs and provide the time needed to work on including extension functions in budget models currently under development by the University of Hawaii.

Your Committees have amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting language appropriating funds for the hiring of one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) organic agriculture agent in Hawaii County, rather than in the County of Maui;
- (2) Inserting language appropriating funds for the hiring of one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) farm food safety agent in the County of Maui, rather than in Hawaii County; and
- (3) Changing the effective date to July 1, 2015.

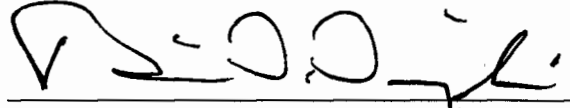
As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Higher Education and the Arts and Agriculture that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 850, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 850, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.



Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Higher Education
and the Arts and Agriculture,



RUSSELL E. RUDERMAN, Chair



BRIAN T. TANIGUCHI, Chair



The Senate
Twenty-Eighth Legislature
State of Hawai'i


Record of Votes
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts
HEA

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
<i>HB 850 HD1</i>	<i>HEA/AGL, WAM</i>	<i>3-19-2015</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
TANIGUCHI, Brian T. (C)	✓			
INOUYE, Lorraine R. (VC)	✓			
GABBARD, Mike	✓			
KAHELE, Gilbert				✓
KIDANI, Michelle N.	✓			
WAKAI, Glenn	✓			
SLOM, Sam				✓
TOTAL	5			2
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <i>Lorraine R. Inouye</i>				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes

The Senate
 Twenty-Eighth Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Agriculture
AGL

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
HB 850 HD1	HEA/AGL, WAM	3/19/15		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
RUDERMAN, Russell E. (C)	X			
RIVIERE, Gil (VC)	X			
CHUN OAKLAND, Suzanne				X
TANIGUCHI, Brian T.	X			
THIELEN, Laura H.				X
WAKAI, Glenn	X			
SLOM, Sam				X
TOTAL	4	0	0	3
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
				
Distribution:				
Original File with Committee Report	Yellow Clerk's Office	Pink Drafting Agency	Goldenrod Committee File Copy	

*Only one measure per Record of Votes