



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
January 30, 2025 at 3:05 PM

By

Parwinder Grewal, Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience

And

Michael Bruno, Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

**SB 672 – RELATING TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR THE
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII**

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support with amendments to SB 672 relating to the University of Hawai'i which authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds and appropriate funds for a capital improvement project (CIP) for the repair, maintenance, and demolition of buildings at Waimānalo Research Station.

The renaming of the college was approved in October 2024 to better align CTAHR's name to its land-grant mission of improving the human condition and human use of natural resources through research, education and Cooperative Extension. We respectfully offer the following amendment: SECTION 1., lines 2-3, to correct the name of the college to university of Hawaii at Manoa college of tropical agriculture and human [resources] resilience (CTAHR).

The Waimānalo CARES (CTAHR Agricultural Research and Extension Stations) Center is part of a statewide network of CARES centers that provides crucial support for local farmers, ranchers, and the local community conducting agricultural research, Extension and 'āina based educational activities from K-12 to graduate levels for the public good. CTAHR appreciates the purpose of SB 672 which authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds in the sum of \$4,000,000 for fiscal year 2025-2026 for CIP at the Waimānalo research station. There is a new opportunity presented by the adjacency of the former Meadow Gold Dairies (MGD) land to the Waimānalo research station. CTAHR now manages the MGD under a Right of Entry with DLNR, and CTAHR would like to build a state-of-the-art animal science teaching, research, and Extension facility and further expand field research and the GoFarm program to meet food self-sufficiency goals, and obtain national accreditation for its Animal Science undergraduate program. CTAHR respectfully requests an amended sum of \$5,500,000 of the general obligation

bonds for CIP at Waimānalo research station with the additional \$1,500,000 for Phase 1 of the redesign of MGD land at the Waimānalo research station.

We support SB 672 with the suggested amendments, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Budget. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



LATE

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January 30, 2025

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

TESTIMONY ON SB 672
RELATING TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF
HAWAII

Conference Room 229 & Videoconference
3:05 PM

Aloha Chair Kim, Vice-Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate, and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports SB 672, which authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds and appropriates funds for a capital improvement project for the repair, maintenance, and demolition of buildings at the Waimanalo Research Station.

The Waimānalo Research Station (WRS) was established by the University of Hawai'i in 1950. The 127 acres in Waimānalo, O'ahu are deemed ceded lands and must be used for educational and other public purposes. The station is adjacent to the former Meadow Gold Dairies (MGD) site, which CTAHR manages under a Right of Entry with the State of Hawai'i, Department of Land and Natural Resources.

The Waimānalo Research Station is part of a larger network of agricultural experimental stations and Cooperative Extension offices across the State, which supports Research, Extension, and Instruction (REI) endeavors for UH researchers, specialists, Extension faculty, staff, and students. WRS provides critical research and extension services benefiting Hawai'i's farmers and ranchers. It is a testing ground for innovative agricultural techniques, including soil health, pest and disease management, organic farming practices, and crop improvement.

WRS is home to research on specialty crops, tropical fruits, and sustainable farming techniques, helping Hawai'i's producers remain competitive. It plays a key role in training new and existing farmers through outreach programs, workshops, and hands-on demonstrations.

Many of the station's facilities are outdated, deteriorating, and needing repair, limiting their ability to support research and extension programs. Without repairs and modernization, the station will be unable to meet the growing needs of Hawai'i's agricultural community. Upgrading and repairing key infrastructure will expand research opportunities, attract funding, and improve the station's ability to serve local farmers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**THE SENATE
KA 'AHA KENEKOA**

**THE THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2025**

**COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair**

**Thursday, January 30, 2025 3:05 PM
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street**

**RE SB 672 - RELATING TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS
FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.**

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 350 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.

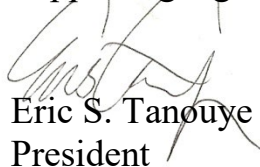
The Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association (HFNA) STRONGLY SUPPORTS Senate Bill 672.

The Waimanalo research and experiment station is important to our industry and needs the funding to be maintained. This station holds important germ plasm for our industry and included floriculture nursery plots. We ask that this funding be approved to allow this research station to be updated with repair and maintenance.



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.

Supporting Agriculture and Hawaii,



Eric S. Tanouye
President

Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

SB-672

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 1:24:22 PM

Testimony for HRE on 1/30/2025 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ronald Weidenbach	Testifying for Hawaii Aquaculture and Aquaponics Association	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Hawaii Aquaculture and Aquaponics Association (HAAA) strongly supports HB672 which authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds and appropriates funds for a capital improvement project for the repair, maintenance, and demolition of buildings at the Waimanalo Research Station.

The Waimanalo field station is an important and well used CTAHR facility on Oahu for community engagement, critical agricultural research, development, and demonstration, and GoFarms' very successful hands-on farmer training program. This important facility has been underfunded for decades and is in dire need of maintenance, repairs, demolitions, and upgrades including enhanced security measures.

The HAAA strongly supports the requested bonds and funds to support these essential facility needs. We respectfully request the committee's passage of SB672.

SB-672

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 2:18:06 PM

Testimony for HRE on 1/30/2025 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Warren Watanabe	Testifying for Maui County Farm Bureau	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Maui County Farm Bureau supports SB672 and urges the committee to pass this measure.
Mahalo.

Warren K. Watanabe, Executive Director

SB-672

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 3:57:20 PM

Testimony for HRE on 1/30/2025 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Theresa M Thompson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 672 RELATING TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR THE
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

Mahalo,

Theresa Thompson

SB-672

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 6:03:18 PM

Testimony for HRE on 1/30/2025 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John R. Gordines	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Waimea all has many food, ornamental and animal farms. We need to continue to support the University and their role in research.

Kauai Aloha,

Johnny Gordines

SB-672

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 7:38:06 PM

Testimony for HRE on 1/30/2025 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Moniz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testifying in support of this important agricultural Bill

SB-672

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 10:41:46 PM

Testimony for HRE on 1/30/2025 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frederick M. Mencher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee,

I support SB 672, which would provide funding for capital improvements at the U.H agricultural research station in Waimanalo. I have attended several useful agricultural workshops at the Waimanalo facility on a variety of local crops. While the CTAHR researchers and extension agents do an excellent job with the resources they have, it is obvious that the facility's aging buildings need repair or replacement. I therefore encourage your committee to pass SB 672.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Frederick M. Mencher

SB-672

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 12:11:40 PM

Testimony for HRE on 1/30/2025 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Randy Cabral	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support

SB-672

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 2:55:44 PM

Testimony for HRE on 1/30/2025 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
J Ashman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure.

Thank you.

LATE

SB-672

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 9:15:53 AM

Testimony for HRE on 1/30/2025 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin Mulkern	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support Kevin Mulkern Waimanalo Farmer and Nurseryperson