

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
Governor

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
Lt. Governor



**SHARON HURD**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**MORRIS M. ATTA**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD**  
**CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS**

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2023**  
**10:00 AM**  
**CONFERENCE ROOM 325**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 310**  
**RELATING TO AGRICULTURE EDUCATION**

Chairperson Gates and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 310. This bill supports a coordinated framework for agriculture education by appropriating funds for a full-time agriculture coordinator position at the college of tropical agriculture and human resources (CTAHR) at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, as recommended by the agriculture working group in their 2019 final report to the Legislature. The Department supports this bill.

The Department looks forward to supporting the CTAHR agricultural coordinator to educate the farmers of Hawaii's future.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## ‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

### Legislative Testimony

#### Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems  
Friday, February 10, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

By

Anna Wieczorek, Interim Dean  
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

And

Michael Bruno, Provost  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### HB 310 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE EDUCATION

Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 310 relating to agriculture education and appropriates funds to the University of Hawai'i (UH) for the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR), UH Mānoa, to establish an agriculture education coordinator position.

As mentioned in HB 310, CTAHR convened the P-20 Agriculture Education Working Group, and the major recommendation contained in the group's final report to the 2019 legislature was the recommendation to appoint an agriculture education coordinator. This bill is a continuing attempt to act on that recommendation. We believe that the work done by the Working Group was highly collaborative and valuable, and that the need for such a program coordinator is justified.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated that the State of Hawai'i must create a more sustainable agriculture industry to support local food production and a diverse agricultural economy.

If HB 310 is passed and funded, this agriculture education coordinator will work across the UH system, including our Community Colleges, Hawai'i Department of Education, as well as other members representing the original Working Group.

Better coordination of already existing agriculture education programs across the State, will provide a diversity of educational options to meet Hawai'i's needs to "grow more farmers".

Furthermore, by working together we will be able to increase the number of people in our State that will have the professional and technical skills to pursue employment opportunities in food and agriculture.

In summary, the University of Hawai'i supports HB 310 provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our Board of Regents approved budget.



The House Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems  
February 10, 2023  
Room 325, 10:00AM

RE: **HB 310, Relating to Agriculture Education**

Attention: Chair Cedric Gates, Vice Chair Kirstin Kahaloa and members of the Committee

The University of Hawaii Professional Assembly (UHPA) appreciates the opportunity to **support the intent and purpose of HB 310**, Relating to Agriculture Education.

HB310 appropriates funding for a full-time agriculture education coordinator position, as outlined in section 2. This bill will enable revitalization of agricultural programs, and allow for an increase of interest among youth to pursue agriculture and resource management professionally.

UHPA supports and encourages the committee to **pass HB 310**.

Respectfully submitted,

Christian L. Fern  
Executive Director  
University of Hawaii Professional Assembly



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 10, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

**TESTIMONY ON HB 310**  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE EDUCATION

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference  
10:00 AM

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice-Chair Kahaloa, 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 HB 310**, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawai'i for the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources to establish one full-time agriculture education coordinator position.

It is commonly known that the average age of a farmer in Hawai'i is approximately 60 years old. For agriculture to be sustainable, and to produce more local crops we, as a society, must cultivate the next generation of farmers and ranchers.

The Hawai'i Department of Labor and Industrial Relations undertook a series of facilitated meetings with farmers, ranchers, educators, and a diverse group of stakeholders across the state between 2007 and 2011 to address Ag Labor. The Hawai'i Agriculture Skill Panel Report was the result of the stakeholder meetings. The report made a number of recommendations, of which several common themes emerged. #1 of those themes was "Increasing youth education and training".

In 2013, the Hawai'i State Legislature saw fit to establish the Agriculture Workforce Advisory Board via HB 749 of that year. This Board convenes, in part, to execute the recommendations of the Hawai'i Agriculture Skill Panel Report. This board established a program by which educators and school administrators can be exposed and incentivized to adopt existing broad-based agricultural curriculums. This was an important step toward the future of agriculture in Hawai'i.

In 2015, Hawai'i State Senate Resolution No. 80 requested that the UH-Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) develop an "implementation strategy and recommendations for the creation of a statewide coordinated framework of

support for P–20 agriculture education, including any proposed legislation.” SR 80 sought to build upon the expertise of CTAHR and create a coordinated effort to address Ag education. It bears mentioning that CTAHR currently serves on the Ag Workforce Development Advisory Board.

HFB supports initiatives that help to educate and reconnect our children with agriculture. Through agriculture education programs, our children will gain an understanding and appreciation for agriculture which will result in healthier eating habits, stronger support for Hawai‘i’s agriculture industry, and will contribute to Hawai‘i’s food security. We still have a long way to go to educate our children about agriculture. Creating an agriculture education coordinator position is another tool that will help in the education process. It is an investment to have well-informed consumers and supporters of Hawai‘i’s agricultural industry in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



## HIPHI Board

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Department of Pediatrics

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State of Hawai'i, Deputy Public  
Defender

## HIPHI Initiatives

Coalition for a  
Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

Community Health  
Worker Initiative

COVID-19 Response

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol Free  
Coalitions

Hawai'i Farm to School Hui

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Collective

Date: February 9, 2023

To: Representative Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair  
Representative Kirstin Kahaloa, Vice Chair

Re: Strong Support for HB 310 Relating to Education

Hrg: Friday, February 10, 2023, at 10:00 AM, Conf Rm 325

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Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) works to advance policy and systems change to reduce disparities and improve the health of Hawai'i residents. HIPHI is home to and testifies here on behalf of The Hawai'i Farm to School Hui,<sup>i</sup> which collectively represents over 60 organizations from across the islands.

Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) appreciates the opportunity to provide **Strong Support** for **HB310**, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawai'i for the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (UH CTAHR) to establish one full-time agriculture education coordinator position.

Following the passage of Senate Resolution 80 in 2015, the Hawai'i Farm to School Hui worked with UH CTAHR to convene the P-20 Agriculture Education Working Group for the purposes developing a coordinated framework of support for preschool through post-secondary (P-20) agriculture education in Hawai'i.

As outlined in the group's [final report to the 2019 legislature \(DC149\)](#) and provided for in HB310, the Agriculture Education Coordinator position within UH CTAHR is essential to advance a coordinated statewide approach to regenerating Hawai'i's community food systems through regular and equitable access to agriculture and food systems education for all students.

This bill addresses the pressing need for immediate and sustained investment by the state in agriculture and food systems education to advance Hawaii's food security and food self-sufficiency through the development of agriculture educators, future farmers, and a society that understands, supports, and actively participates in regenerating Hawai'i's community food systems.

Mahalo for considering this measure and for the opportunity to testify in support of HB310.

Mahalo,



Dennis Chase  
Hawai'i Farm to School Hui Program Manager  
Hawai'i Public Health Institute

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<sup>i</sup> Founded in 2010, the **Hawai'i Farm to School Hui** is a statewide network comprising five island-level networks, community organizations, schools, state agencies, and other food systems stakeholders with a collective mission to strengthen Hawaii's farm to school movement. The three pillars of successful farm to school programs are 1) school gardens and on-campus farms, 2) education, and 3) school food improvements through local procurement.



**HB-310**

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 2:33:22 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nancy Redfeather	Ka Ohana O Na Pua	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the House Agriculture Committee,

This position acts as a liason, an educational coordinator, a link between DOE and CTAHR, a champion of agricultural education P-20, coordinating teacher professional development opportunities, and continuing to Chair the State Agriculture Education Working Group and so policy,....it is an important position *and* a unique one. I would say that this position is not an easy one to fill BUT because we have a unique individual who has all these skills and is already in that position, it can give confidence to Legislators that this Bill's purposes **will** be fulfilled. Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha, Nancy Redfeather

**HB-310**

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 12:10:04 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

support

**HB-310**

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 12:55:28 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ming Wei Koh	Center for Getting Things Started	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou and honorable Legislators,

we are very hopeful to see this bill again in 2023. We were in full support in 2022 for this position to be created and funded at CTAHR and we continue to pledge our support this round.

This Bill should pass for the following reasons:

1. UH Mānoa as a land grant university is one of the only land grant institutions nationwide to not have Agriculture Education as a program or certification.
2. We need to grow an educated agricultural workforce in Hawai'i.
3. We need an increased number and quality of agriculture education programs in P-20 educational settings.
4. We definitely need Increased number of trained agriculture educators. We have many High School agriculture education positions filled by mechanics, carpenters and culinary arts teachers. While we love those teachers, they are not trained in this area.
5. Most of all, we need to increase number of students entering and completing secondary and higher education and training programs in agriculture and food systems here in Hawai'i instead of losing them to programs elsewhere.

Mahalo piha for your consideration.

Koh Ming Wei, PhD

Executive Director,

Center for Getting Things Started

mingwei@c4gts.org

808 443 9231



**HB-310**

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 6:32:39 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lisa DeSantis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

I support HB310.

Mahalo for your time,

Lisa DeSantis, Waimea, Hawai‘i Island

**HB-310**

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 8:48:29 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Joseph Wat	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the creation of and ongoing funding for a CTAHR Agricultural Education Coordinator.

Increase in general knowledge around agriculture has far-reaching impacts including improved health and wellness of students and the overall population, properly valuing our local food system workers, increased food security and disaster resilience with increased local food production, and ecological benefits from larger numbers of smaller farmers.

**While there are many projects sharing agriculture education in Hawai'i (such as the Farm to School Hui), the dedicated resource of a position within CTHAR would bring agricultural expertise. This may lead to more tightly bound STEM curricula and higher participation in agriculture of graduates.**

Again, I strongly support this bill.

Thank you for your attention.