

SB2455

Testimony



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

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

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND HIGHER
EDUCATION**

THURSDAY JANUARY 30, 2014

3:00 P.M.

Room 229

**SENATE BILL NO. 2455
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairpersons Nishihara and Taniguchi and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2455 relating to agriculture. This bill appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) to operate and implement the 4-H program.

The future of agriculture depends on our keiki, and this measure promotes the existing 4-H program which strives to educate students on food & nutrition, livestock, crops, forestry, and leadership.

The Hawaii Department of Agriculture supports the intent of this bill, but defers to CTAHR.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture
and

Senate Committee on Higher Education
Thursday, January 30, 2014 at 3:00 pm

by
Maria Gallo
Dean

College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 2455 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

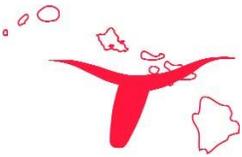
Chairs Nishihara and Taniguchi, Vice Chairs Kouchi and Kahele, and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and the Senate Committee on Higher Education, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 2455, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawai'i, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources to operate and implement the 4-H program, Effective 7/1/2014.

We 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.

4-H, under the direction of Cooperative Extension Service (CES) faculty within the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR), University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, is one of the oldest and most effective programs of non-formal education in Hawai'i. 4-H assists young people age 5-19 in developing life skills and in forming attitudes that will enable them to become self-directing, productive, and contributing members of society, and touches approximately 35,000 young people annually throughout the State of Hawai'i. The four H's stand for Head, Heart, Hands, and Health.

The key to both the longevity and the relevance of 4-H to today's youth is the flexibility of the program. Although its projects in livestock and crop education are well-known and very successful, 4-H members may also learn about food and nutrition, clothing, health, safety, the environment, and leadership. As a future-looking organization, 4-H's new programs even range from aerospace to theatrics to food safety.

Growth and sustained success of 4-H in Hawai'i is limited only by the availability of resources. SB 2762 will contribute to the resources necessary to sustain this successful youth development program, and we thank you again for the opportunity to express our support for this bill.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

P O Box 437199 Kamuela HI 96743

Phone (808) 885-5599 • Fax (808)

887-1607 e-mail:

HICattlemens@hawaii.rr.com

January 28, 2014

In regard to Senate Bill 2455

Aloha Honorable Chairs Nishihara and Taniguchi, Vice Chairs Kouchi and Kahele, and Committee Members,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **strongly supports** SB2455 which will appropriate funding to the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) to support the 4-H program. Developing the next generation of farmers and ranchers is a critical issue if we are to address the issues of food security and sustainability for the long-term, and the 4-H program addresses this issue with a strong track record of success.

The 4-H program in Hawaii is a youth leadership development program that has more than 100 years of history in Hawaii, with the first 4-H livestock club formed on Maui in 1918. Many of Hawaii's current day agricultural leaders are alumni of the 4-H program.

Given the current strong interest in food security and sustainability for our island state, it would behoove us to look to programs with strong track records in nurturing farmers and ranchers, and the 4-H program is one of the best examples. Not only does 4-H provide invaluable experiential learning for young people, but it is also a program which emphasizes and relies upon adult volunteers - whether parents, alumni, or experts from the agricultural community willing to give their time - working in partnership and under the advisement of CTAHR and its extension agents.

The 4-H program is a flexible and diverse program that allows different clubs to pursue their own interests within the field of agriculture – from gardening to aquaponics to livestock projects, and beyond agriculture to such diverse fields as robotics and photography, but the traditional strength of the 4-H program in Hawaii has been agriculture, and livestock, in particular.

Unfortunately, as our society has become farther and farther removed from where its food comes from, the 4-H program has also suffered from lack of awareness and support. However, as we face up to the resource challenges that lie ahead, the key role that agriculture plays in delivering the basic necessities of life such as food and fuel has become increasingly apparent. The 4-H program was once a cornerstone of a flourishing agricultural community in Hawaii, and it has an important role to play in re-building our resilience and food security in the future.

Please help to revitalize the Hawai'i 4-H program by supporting SB 2455.



Hawaii's Agricultural Partnership

SB 2455

AGL/HRE, WAM

Appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources to operate and implement the 4-H program. Effective 7/1/2014

Chairs Nishihara and Taniguchi, Vice Chairs Kouchi and Kahele, & Committee Members

4 Ag Hawaii, Inc. **strongly supports** SB 2455

4-H is about more than ribbons and awards ~ it's about the people, the experiences, the life-long skills & the memories. It's about being a role model, giving back and making the best better.

Developing our next generation of farmers and ranchers is a critical issue if we are to address the issues of food security and sustainability for the long-term, and our 4-H program addresses this issue with a strong track record of success. Not only does 4-H provide invaluable experiential learning for young people, but it is also a program which emphasizes and relies upon adult volunteers working in partnership with the expertise of CTAHR and its extension agents.

Unfortunately, as our society has become further removed from where its food comes from, the 4-H program has also suffered from lack of support. However, as we face up to the resource challenges that lie ahead, the key role that agriculture plays in delivering the basic necessities of life such as food has become increasingly apparent.

4 Ag Hawaii is a non-profit 501[c] [3] corporation established as a public-private partnership focused on goals that include: promoting the agricultural economic welfare of Hawai'i and its counties; conducting agricultural economic; educational & media programs, and fostering statewide interest for responsible agricultural economic development of our islands.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.



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

January 30, 2014

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

TESTIMONY ON SB 2455
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 229
3:00 PM

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kouchi, and Members of the Committee:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,832 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.

HFBF strongly supports SB 2455, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources to support the 4-H program.

Hawaii's 4-H program is vitally important to the future of agriculture in Hawaii. We can no longer rely solely upon our public education system for education and training of the next generation of sustainable farmers and ranchers. Operating in Hawaii for nearly 100 years, the 4-H has a long history of fulfilling this goal. The passion and direct interaction of volunteer farmers and ranchers with young people will help grow and perpetuate the ranks of the next generation of farmers and ranchers. These organizations address sustainability on social, economic and environmental levels. The 4-H program has a proven track record of not only exposing and educating young people to positive, hands on experience in agricultural production, but is also a program that instills leadership and life skills in a wide variety of projects.

It is clear that we must strongly support agricultural education for our young people if we are to increase Hawai'i's long-term resilience and sustainability.

Please support SB 2455 as a continuing step towards rebuilding the vitality of the 4-H program.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: lynhowe1946@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2455 on Jan 30, 2014 15:00PM*
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2014 11:05:19 PM

SB2455

Submitted on: 1/28/2014

Testimony for AGL/HRE on Jan 30, 2014 15:00PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lyn Howe	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.

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