

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

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 JUDICIARY AND LABOR
AND WAYS AND MEANS**

April 4, 2016
9:15 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1997
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairpersons Keith-Agaran and Tokuda and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1997. This bill establishes a K-12 agriculture workforce development pipeline initiative in the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) to conduct trainings for teachers and school administrators in agricultural self-sufficiency. The Department supports this bill but would defer to the DLIR.

The Department has been participating in the Agriculture Workforce Advisory Board that was created by Act 99, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013. Along with the DLIR, Department of Education, University of Hawaii, Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, and a representative from the farming community, discussions have been held to find ways to increase our current agricultural workforce. Recent numbers from the 2012 US Agricultural Census has found the average age of farmers in Hawaii is over 63 years old. It is the Department's goal to reverse this trend and we look forward to continued collaboration with our brother and sister agencies and the public to achieve this goal.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.



Written Only

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 04/04/2016

Time: 09:15 AM

Location: 211

Committee: Senate Ways and Means Senate
Judiciary and Labor

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 1997 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

Purpose of Bill: Implements the recommendation of the Hawaii agriculture workforce advisory board to create an agriculture workforce development pipeline initiative to conduct training on all islands for teachers and school administrators in agricultural self-sufficiency.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education supports HB 1997 to establish a K-12 agriculture workforce development pipeline initiative to guide training for teachers and school administrators in agricultural self-sufficiency, but defers to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations for any administrative or budgetary implementation concerns.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this measure.



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
www.labor.hawaii.gov
Phone: (808) 586-8844 / Fax: (808) 586-9099
Email: dlir.director@hawaii.gov

April 4, 2016

To: The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair,
The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair,
The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Date: Monday, April 4, 2016
Time: 9:15 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 211, State Capitol

From: Linda Chu Takayama, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

Re: H.B. No. 1997 Relating to Agriculture

I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

HB1997 proposes to add a new section to chapter 371, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), which establishes within the department a K-12 agriculture workforce development pipeline initiative to conduct training on all islands for teachers and school administrators regarding agricultural self-sufficiency. The bill includes establishment of a coordinator position and workforce development specialist in the department to carry out this initiative. The department supports this bill provided its passage does not replace or adversely affect priorities identified in the Governor's Supplemental Budget request.

An appropriation of \$250,000 from general funds would support this initiative as a pilot project. DLIR respectfully offers suggested amendments in item III below for consideration by the Committee.

II. CURRENT LAW

Section 371-19, HRS, established the Hawaii Agricultural Workforce Advisory Board to advise the department on developing the next generation of agricultural workers; developing a mission, objectives, and goals of the Board; developing partnerships to further goals of the Board; supporting local chapters of Future Farmers of America; and

recommending projects that expand the agricultural workforce in Hawaii.

III. COMMENTS ON THE HOUSE BILL

The Agricultural Workforce Advisory Board was an outgrowth from a series of Agricultural Skill Panels convened in all counties in 2013¹. Over 600 stakeholders collectively identified issues regarding expansion of the agricultural workforce and developed recommendations.

The Board reviewed the Agricultural Skill Panel recommendations and recommended the language reflected in this proposal. The Board focused on widening the pipeline of students to the agricultural workforce through the biggest potential pool of agricultural workers: Hawaii's youth.

Interest in agriculture is waning among Hawaii youth because they have an inaccurate perception of farming as a low-paying, low-skilled trade and are not aware of the increasingly technical nature of jobs in the industry. To update teachers and school administrators about the current state of agricultural jobs, this bill proposes to provide them training, with exposure to real-life settings for students and teachers. The intended result is to generate interest and excitement for jobs in agriculture that can be passed on to students and promote expansion of the agricultural workforce.

DLIR supports this bill as a potential, important method to increase the agricultural workforce provided sufficient funds are appropriated and its passage does not replace or adversely affect priorities identified in the Governor's Supplemental Budget request.

To carry out the purpose of the bill, DLIR respectfully suggests the following amendment:

Section 2, page 2, lines 9-11, revise to read as follows:

"...subject to chapter 76, to carry out the purposes of this section, which may include developing and proposing incentives, such as scholarships, travel offsets, course credits, and stipends."

This clarifying language would give the department the flexibility to carry out purposes of the bill, including development and delivery of teacher training in agriculture, without being limited to incentives.

¹ http://labor.hawaii.gov/wdc/files/2013/06/AgSkillPanelReport_web.pdf

<http://dlir.state.hi.us/labor/sesp/pages/agriculture.cfm>



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Corey Rosenlee
President
Justin Hughey
Vice President
Amy Perruso
Secretary-Treasurer

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR and THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

RE: HB 1997 - RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2016

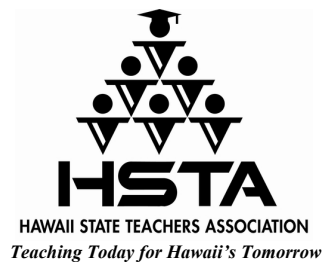
COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Keith-Agaran, Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports HB 1997**, relating to agriculture.

We need to restore the balance in our public educational system in Hawaii. Hawaii's Career and Technical Education programs need to be expanded to provide greater opportunity to prepare young people to design their own futures. Providing teachers in the DOE with training from experts in the agricultural field would help them understand not only how the agriculture workforce needs have changed over time, but also how to incorporate sustainability in agriculture that is in high demand in Hawaii. According to the Hawaii Agriculture Skill Panel Report from the Workforce Development Council, the average age of Hawaii's commercial farmers is over 60 years old. Interest in agriculture is waning in our youth and this is worrisome to the industry and to the economy and self-sustainability of our state.

There is a common misconception that farming is a low-paying, low-skilled trade. Our youth need to understand that there are a variety of careers within the agricultural industry that need to be filled. They need more workers that are not only technical in nature, but also those who will help to solve the problems listed in the report such as developing new technology and developing ideas for innovation that are critical components to the growth and expansion of the agricultural industry in Hawaii, especially in the areas of sustainability. The agricultural industry also needs workers in business, marketing, and management to refine and streamline production and distribution, along with workers to guide the industry in



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Executive Director

using sustainable practices, Organic farming, Soil building, Aquaponics, Vermiculture, Bokashi (use of organic fermented fertilizer), and Natural Farming.

Passage of this bill would help provide teachers with the knowledge they need to incorporate agricultural career paths into their curriculum using school gardens, and farm to table programs with their students.

Hawaii, like most states, is working toward the goal of getting their students 'college-and career-ready,' but CTE experts are concerned that what we mean by 'career-ready' is not always clear, and the supply of quality career-technical education programs has not kept pace with demand. Students must have several options available to them in order to explore a variety of career options, one of them being in agriculture. This bill supports these efforts.

According to a national study, The Shocking Truth About The Skills Gap (2015), only 25 percent of polled job seekers reported receiving career path in high school, and 41 percent said they wished they had received more guidance.

Because a robust education involves developing all aspects of learning for our ever-changing world including the changes in agriculture, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
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e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

April 04, 2016

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON HB 1997
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 211
9:15 AM

Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committees:

I am Randy Cabral, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 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.

HFB strongly supports HB 1997, which implements the recommendation of the Hawaii agriculture workforce advisory board to create an agriculture workforce development pipeline initiative to conduct training on all islands for teachers and school administrators in agricultural self-sufficiency.

Hawaii's commercial farmers' average age is over 60 years. To maintain and expand production levels, it's clear that we need a new generation of farmers and ranchers equipped to assume the task of growing crops and livestock. This is critical to achieving Hawaii's goal of increased self-sufficiency and sustainability. Two years ago DLIR in conjunction with HDOA conducted a series of meetings in all Counties to identify workforce needs of the industry. We expect that this measure is a follow up of these sessions and we applaud this effort. The activities enabled by passage of this legislation will lead to implemented strategies yielding favorable outcomes for the state's economy, particularly the agricultural sector.

Additionally, farmers and ranchers endure numerous regulatory requirements. Among them, labor laws are among the most problematic; with significant differences between Federal and State requirements. Training to meet these and other requirements is vital. Farmers and ranchers have been inspected and cited by Federal DOL on Oahu, Big Island and Maui for infractions that they did not realize were in non-compliance. The 2013 Legislature passed into law training provisions for agriculture that was left unfunded. We ask for your support of funding requests to implement this measure as requested by the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

HAWAII FISH COMPANY, INC.

Since 1978

P. O. Box 740
Waialua, HI 96791, USA
Contact: 808-429-3147
E-mail: hawaiiifish@gmail.com

City Bank TIGR Award
US SBA Tibbitts Award
US SBA Small Business Award
Special Congressional Recognition

THE SENATE THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair, Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair, Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

DATE: Monday, April 4, 2016
TIME: 9:15 A.M.
PLACE: Conference Room 211
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

HB 1997 Relating to Agriculture WorkForce Development

Aloha Chairs Keith-Agaran and Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chairs Shimabukuro and Dela Cruz, and Committee members.

Hawaii Fish Company supports HB 1997 which implements the recommendation of the Hawaii agriculture workforce advisory board to create an agriculture workforce development pipeline initiative to conduct training on all islands for teachers and school administrators in agricultural self-sufficiency.

Hawaii's commercial farmers' average age is over 60 years; we are 68 and 60. To maintain and expand production levels, it's clear that we need a new generation of farmers and ranchers equipped to assume the task of growing crops and livestock, including aquaculture. This is critical to achieving Hawaii's goal of increased self-sufficiency and sustainability.

Additionally, farmers and ranchers endure numerous regulatory requirements. Among them, labor laws are among the most problematic; with significant differences between Federal and State requirements. Training to meet these and other requirements is vital.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure,

Ron and Lita Weidenbach

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR and SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Relating to HB 1997 Agriculture WorkForce Development

Aloha Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, and Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair(s), and Vice Chair(s) Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro and Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, and Committee members.

I support HB 1997, which implements the recommendation of the Hawaii agriculture workforce advisory board to create an agriculture workforce development pipeline initiative to conduct training on all islands for teachers and school administrators in agricultural self-sufficiency.

Hawaii's commercial farmers' average age is over 60 years. To maintain and expand production levels, it's clear that we need a new generation of farmers and ranchers equipped to assume the task of growing crops and livestock. This is critical to achieving Hawaii's goal of increased self-sufficiency and sustainability.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

Brendan Balthazar

Makawao, HI

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR and SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Relating to HB 1997 Agriculture WorkForce Development

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

Brian Miyamoto

Honolulu, HI

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR and SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

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Darryl Okuda

Kula, HI

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Elliot Telles

Pearl City, HI

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Gerrit Takasaki

Hilo, HI

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Greg Friel

Makawao, HI

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Harold Keyser

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Ian Baldrige

Kula, HI

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, April 03, 2016 8:54 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc:
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1997 on Apr 4, 2016 09:15AM*

HB1997

Submitted on: 4/3/2016

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Apr 4, 2016 09:15AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
J Ashman	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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SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR and SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

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Joanna DeRego

Laupahoehoe, HI

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Joe McClure

Kahului, HI

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John Frostad

Makawao, HI

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Jolene Lau

Honolulu, HI

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Linda Silva

Kalaheo, HI

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Lisa Parker

Kapaa, HI

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Patricia Dukes

Kailua, HI

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR and SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

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Hawaii's commercial farmers' average age is over 60 years. To maintain and expand production levels, it's clear that we need a new generation of farmers and ranchers equipped to assume the task of growing crops and livestock. This is critical to achieving Hawaii's goal of increased self-sufficiency and sustainability.

Additionally, farmers and ranchers endure numerous regulatory requirements. Among them, labor laws are among the most problematic; with significant differences between Federal and State requirements. Training to meet these and other requirements is vital.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

ROBERT MORRIS

KAILUA, HI

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR and SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Relating to HB 1997 Agriculture WorkForce Development

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Thank you for the opportunity to support this measure.

Robert Paull

Honolulu, HI

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Stan Cypriano

Honokaa, HI

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Stuart Nicholls

Kula, HI

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Ted Yamamura

Wailuku, HI

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Wesley Nohara

Wailuku, HI