

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



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

SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR,
AGRICULTURE, AND EDUCATION**

March 20, 2015
9:05 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 016

**HOUSE BILL NO. 853 HD 1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairpersons Keith-Agaran, Ruderman, and Kidani, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 853 HD 1. 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 CTAHR, 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 by motivating our educators to teach their students about the potential of agricultural and environmental sciences for future careers that contribute to food-resiliency. 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.





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

Date: 03/20/2015

Time: 09:05 AM

Location: 016

Committee: Senate Judiciary and Labor
Senate Agriculture Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

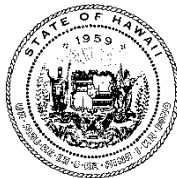
Title of Bill: HB 0853, HD1 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes a K-12 Agriculture Workforce Development Pipeline Initiative in DLIR to conduct trainings for teachers and school administrators in agricultural self-sufficiency. Appropriates funds to support the Initiative. (HB853 HD1)

Department's Position:

The Department of Education supports the intent of HB 853 HD1 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 DLIR.

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.hawaii.gov/labor
Phone: (808) 586-8842 / Fax: (808) 586-9099
Email: dlir.director@hawaii.gov

March 18, 2015

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

The Honorable Russell E. Ruderman, Chair,
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture

The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Chair,
The Honorable Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Education

Date: Friday, March 20, 2015
Time: 9:05 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 016, State Capitol

From: Elaine Young, Acting Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

Re: H.B. No. 853 HD1 Relating to Agriculture

I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

HB853 HD1 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 necessary staff to carry out this initiative.

The Agricultural Workforce Advisory Board produced the \$500,000 estimate to start the program, which was vetted by the DLIR. The HD1 amended this measure by changing the appropriation amount to an unspecified sum and the effective date to January 20, 2050 to encourage further discussion.

The department supports this bill provided its passage does not replace or

adversely affect priorities identified in the Executive Budget.

II. CURRENT LAW

Chapter 371-19 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 on all counties in 2013. Over 600 stakeholders collectively identified issues regarding expansion of the agricultural workforce and developed recommendations for their resolution.

The Hawaii Agricultural Workforce Advisory Board reviewed Skill Panel recommendations contained in the Hawaii Agriculture Skill Panel Report and recommended the language reflected in this bill. The biggest potential source of agricultural workers is Hawaii's youth, therefore, the Board focused on widening the pipeline of students to the agricultural workforce.

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.

For these reasons, the department supports this bill provided sufficient funds are appropriated and its passage does not replace or adversely affect priorities identified in the Executive Budget.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee Judiciary and Labor

And

Senate Committee on Agriculture

And

Senate Committee on Education

Friday, March 20, 2015 at 9:05 am

By

Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor

And

Maria Gallo, Dean

And

J. Kenneth Grace, Associate Dean

College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 853 HD1 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairs Keith-Agaran, Ruderman and Kidani; Vice Chairs Shimabukuro, Riviere and Harimoto; and members of the committees, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 853 HD1, which establishes a K-12 agriculture workforce development pipeline initiative in the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to conduct trainings for teachers and school administrators in agricultural self-sufficiency.

HB 853 HD1 will implement the recommendation of the Hawaii agriculture workforce advisory board, of which the Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, is a member. Although we defer to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations on the fiscal and management implications of HB 853 HD1, we believe that implementation of this recommendation will greatly assist in the development of an educated and well-trained agricultural workforce in Hawai'i, and complements such related efforts as Future Farmers of America, 4-H, and Farm to School programming.

Should HB 853 HD1 be considered a viable approach by the legislature and the referenced departments, we will be glad to continue to work, as our resources permit, with all the parties concerned to promote agricultural workforce development and further the goal of agricultural self-sufficiency in Hawai'i.



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

March 20, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & LABOR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

TESTIMONY ON HB 853, HD 1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 016
9:05 AM

Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Chair Ruderman, Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFBF is comprised of 1,932 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

HFB strongly supports HB 853 HD 1 which establishes a k-12 agriculture workforce development pipeline initiative in Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) to conduct trainings for teachers and school administrators in agricultural self-sufficiency.

DLIR, under Director Takamine's and HDOA Chair Kokubun's leadership, undertook a series of facilitated meetings with farmers, ranchers, educators and a diverse group of stakeholders across the state between 2007 and 2011, when its report was published. This report: Hawaii Agriculture Skill Panel Report, made a number of recommendations, of which several common themes emerged. #1 of those themes is 'Increasing youth education and training'.

It is common knowledge that the average age of a farmer in Hawaii is about 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.

In 2013, the Hawaii State Legislature saw fit to establish the Agriculture Workforce Advisory Board via HB 749 of that year. This Board convened, in part, to execute the recommendations of Hawaii Agriculture Skill Panel Report. This bill, HB 853, is a product of the Advisory Board. It establishes a program by which educators and school administrators can be exposed and incentivized to adopt existing agricultural curriculums. This is an important first step toward the future of agriculture in Hawaii.

Please give HB 853 your strong support. Mahalo!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB853 on Mar 20, 2015 09:05AM*
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 2:45:23 PM

HB853

Submitted on: 3/17/2015

Testimony for JDL/AGL/EDU on Mar 20, 2015 09:05AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Gottlieb	Hawaii Cattlemen's Council	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

The Hon. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair

The Hon. Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Agriculture

The Hon. Russell E. Ruderman, Chair

The Hon. Gil Riviere, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Education

The Hon. Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

The Hon. Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair

Testimony on House Bill 853 HD1

Relating to Agriculture

Submitted by Nani Medeiros, Public Affairs and Policy Director

March 20, 2015, 9:05 am, Room 016

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA), which represents the federally qualified community health centers in Hawaii, supports House Bill 853, establishing a k-12 agriculture workforce development pipeline initiative.

The HPCA is a staunch believer in the social determinants of health, those economic and social conditions that influence an individual and a community's health status. These conditions serve as risk factors endemic to a person's living and working environment, rather than their behavioral or genetic histories. Factors such as income, education, access to recreation and healthy foods, housing, and employment, can and do have measurable impacts on a person and a community, both in health and financial outcomes.

House Bill 853 speaks to several of these social determinants by (1) seeking to expand working knowledge for Hawaii's youth, (2) promote the production of healthy, local foods, and (3) develop an active agriculture workforce.

For these reasons, we strongly support this measure and thank you for the opportunity to testify.

The Twenty-Eighth Legislature
Regular Session of 2015

THE SENATE

Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Committee on Agriculture

Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Chair

Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chair

Committee on Education

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Senator Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Friday, March 20, 2015; 9:05 a.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON H.B. 853, HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

The ILWU Local 142 supports H.B. 853, HD1, which establishes a K-12 Agriculture Workforce Development Program Initiative in DLIR to conduct training for teachers and school administrators in agricultural self-sufficiency.

Hawaii needs a diversified economy that is not dependent on a single industry. Agriculture can play a major role in ensuring a more diversified economy, but developing a workforce interested in agriculture is the challenge. The K-12 Agriculture Workforce Development Pipeline Initiative will help teachers and school administrators see the value of agriculture not only for the jobs they can provide but to help Hawaii achieve food self-sufficiency.

The ILWU urges passage of H.B. 853, HD1. Thank you for considering our testimony.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB853 on Mar 20, 2015 09:05AM
Date: Monday, March 16, 2015 11:56:53 PM

HB853

Submitted on: 3/16/2015

Testimony for JDL/AGL/EDU on Mar 20, 2015 09:05AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Z. Arakawa	Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments: The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii SUPPORTS HB 853, HD1, RELATING TO AGRICULTURE, which establishes a K-12 Agriculture Workforce Development Pipeline Initiative in DLIR to conduct trainings for teachers and school administrators in agricultural self-sufficiency; and appropriates funds to support the Initiative. (HB 853 HD1)

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The National FFA Organization
6060 FFA Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46268

P 317-802-4347
F 317-802-5357
www.ffa.org

March 17, 2015

Chairperson Keith-Agaran, Chairperson Ruderman, Chairperson Kidani, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Riviere, Vice Chair Harimoto and distinguished members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor, Committee on Agriculture, and Committee on Education:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB853. As the state relations specialist for Hawaii from the National FFA Organization, I'm pleased to see to see this bill advance through the state legislature and urge you to support it.

The National FFA Organization prides itself and our network of 52 state associations for our success in workforce development. We offer free access to the nation's largest online database of agriculture career information and we are the national leader in providing professional development for secondary agriculture teachers. We want to help grow and engage the network of agricultural educators in Hawaii. Your support of this bill will certainly help address the workforce need in agriculture and we stand ready to help support and professionally develop the teachers who will interact with Hawaii's youth.

The National FFA Organization and The Council for Agriculture Education believe in the three-component model for the delivery of our content. This time-tested and academically-proven model requires investment above the normal school funding level. Funding HB853 is an excellent step forward in making it possible to offer all three components of agriculture education as part of growing a skilled and knowledgeable workforce.

I thank you for considering this bill and its associated funding request. Growing a workforce of educated and highly skilled citizens is a laudable goal. Engaging secondary agriculture education programs across Hawaii makes sense and the National FFA Organization is ready to support your work with our full network of resources and teacher training opportunities.

Educating students about the local food movement and sustainability is a part of what we teach and offer as a national organization. We work with national leaders in agriscience and sustainability to offer training to our teachers as we work to stay on leading edge of agricultural education.

The National FFA Organization looks forward to continuing to support agriculture education and FFA in Hawaii and will continue to provide professional development for teachers and state staff as requested. Thank you for considering this important investment in agricultural education and workforce development at your state level.

Sincerely,

Ben Meyer
Western US Specialist
National FFA Organization



March 17, 2015

Testimony for HB 853 HD1 / SB 1207

March 20, 2015

9:05 a.m.

Room 016

Nancy Redfeather
Director Hawai'i Island School Garden Network
State Supervisor: FoodCorps Hawai'i
The Kohala Center – Hawai'i Island

Aloha Chairs Keith-Agaran, Ruderman, and Kidani and Members of the Committees,

I feel fortunate to have participated in 3 of the Agriculture Skills Panel Forums that were held at five venues across the state in 2013. I also carefully read the report of those public meetings that was issued in May 2013, the "Hawaii Agriculture Skill Panel Report." I thought the report did an excellent job at summarizing the recommendations of the people who attended. There was consensus, that the general perception of agriculture as a career needed bolstering, and that youth education was key in changing our food and agriculture future.

I have worked with a Statewide Hui of partners to bring resources, funding, and professional development to school gardens across Hawaii for the past 8 years. In the latest SAWS Survey (Safety and Wellness Survey) conducted by the Department of Health from school year 2012-2013, 192/241 public schools have school gardens, 88% use it daily for instructional purposes and 68% use the garden for the sciences and STEM. So clearly there is interest and growing programs.

From our 2012 Hawaii Farm to School and School Garden Hui (HFSSGH) DOE Survey of School Gardens, over 21,577 students, 830 teachers, and 1,500 regular volunteers who work over 1,000 hours per week, work with our youth to grow food, natives, trees, flowers, and herbs on over 30 acres of land across the state.

Funding for a school garden educator position and equipment needs were identified as the highest priorities of the 168 schools that took the survey. Broader community involvement and cultivating sustainability were their highest vision priorities.

The vision that is held for school garden programs, and Farm to School Programs is a different vision than creating a “workforce pipeline initiative for agriculture.” But perhaps we just use different language to express the same thing.

School Garden programs connect our youth with healthy food and healthy lifestyles, and offer the agriculture sciences and sustainability/environmental education that will engage and excite our youth to go to college and study these green job futures. Some of them will choose to be farmers, and all of them will know how to grow for their future families health and wellness. Some of them may work on farms.

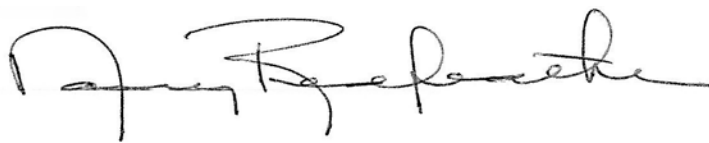
I totally support the idea of helping to train workers for food production, but that would be more appropriate in grades 9-20.

The younger students are still full of wonder, innovation, and need to be challenged to connect their studies in the classroom with the real world of whole systems in the school gardens.

Let’s work together to make both a reality Hawai’i. I know that we are all working to create more capacity for agriculture in Hawai’i.

Mahalo,

Nancy Redfeather
Director: Hawai’i Island School Garden Network
State Supervisor: FoodCorps Hawai’i
The Kohala Center

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nancy Redfeather". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nancy" being more prominent and the last name "Redfeather" written in a continuous, flowing script.

My name is Denna Macanas and I am writing in support of HB 853 because I can proudly say I am a product of Hawaii's agricultural education and believe my collegiate years would have benefitted greatly had I been engrossed with agriculture throughout my academic career.

My agricultural career started at my learning center courses, continued into college and currently is part of my career. And I have seen the quick interest in agriculture from just a short decade ago. A decade ago Vocational/Career and Technical Education sat on the chopping block and the budget to operate these courses was cut and folded into the Weighted Student Formula. Since then the chunk of education has remained on the chopping block and quite understandably. It's expensive. However, the minority of lives that are touched by these courses to gain the most vital life experiences is priceless.

I was not the stereotypical student that was just thrown into agriculture because I was bad or too remedial to fit in any other class. I graduated high school with honors and involved with many extra-curricular activities, attended a university and graduated with an agriculture degree. A few years ago I enjoyed my civic duty of working the legislative sessions as a Committee Clerk and finally able to make a career using my degree.

The fourth paragraph of the National FFA Creed states: "I believe in less dependence on begging and more power in bargaining; in the life abundant and enough honest wealth to help make it so—for others as well as myself..." Creating a coordinator position to create a pipeline statewide who can collaborate with the various parties involved along with many supporters to create a balanced approach for our students and potential future agriculturist is a great bargain for the State.

Thank you for your time.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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Cc:
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB853 on Mar 20, 2015 09:05AM*
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HB853

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for JDL/AGL/EDU on Mar 20, 2015 09:05AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James Gauer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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HB853

Submitted on: 3/17/2015

Testimony for JDL/AGL/EDU on Mar 20, 2015 09:05AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimomi Dierks	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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HB853

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for JDL/AGL/EDU on Mar 20, 2015 09:05AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randy Cabral	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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