

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Cc: ncsugano@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2141 on Feb 16, 2016 13:15PM
Date: Monday, February 15, 2016 9:22:35 PM

SB2141

Submitted on: 2/15/2016

Testimony for HEA/WLA on Feb 16, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jari S.K. Sugano	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: SOAP PROGRAM, UH CTAHR Chairs Taniguchi and Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and members of the Senate Higher Education & Water, Land and Agriculture Committee. Thank you for this opportunity to provide personal testimony in support of SB 2141 Relating to the Sustainable and Organic Agriculture Program (SOAP) at the University of Hawaii, at Manoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. I strongly 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. My name is Jari Sugano of Mililani and I also serve as a County Extension Agent and co-program coordinator for the SOAP program at UH Manoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. SOAP has established a solid reputation for delivering timely, research based, quality extension education to Hawaii's producers in the area of sustainable and organic agriculture. We service statewide clientele through a team-based and grass-roots approach providing extension education through collaborative partnerships, on-farm relationships and mass media technologies. Currently food security, self-sufficiency and food safety are priority areas for producers. Currently, increased demands for research based information by Hawaii's diversified agriculture sector surpasses our current staffing. I believe that bill SB 2141 has much merit. I strongly recommend that it be funded. Ongoing funding to support the SOAP program at CTAHR may be crucial to the sustainability of Hawaii's diversified agriculture. Thank you for the opportunity to express our strong support.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Cc: wkenkoike@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2141 on Feb 16, 2016 13:15PM
Date: Monday, February 15, 2016 9:14:20 PM

SB2141

Submitted on: 2/15/2016

Testimony for HEA/WLA on Feb 16, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
W. Ken Koike	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a small organic farmer in Wai'anae, I strongly support SB2141! I could use the help and assistance of UH Manoa extension specialists who understand that the restricted use pesticides, even when following the label, will end up poisoning our water supply, our streams, rivers and killing our ocean wildlife and ultimately, ourselves. Please consider funding these three positions not only for fiscal 2016-2017 but permanently to demonstrate our commitment in raising a new generation of farmers. It begins by our willingness to invest in the proper instruction for the next generation to be given the chance and opportunities that the past generation wasn't. If organic farming could make good, nutritious, delicious food at a decent profit without poisoning our environment and ourselves and without a huge financial nest egg to get started, why shouldn't there be more people interested in doing it? Well, because it actually costs a lot of money to get started. On top of that crops take time to grow and in the mean time bills still have to be paid. Add to that the new restrictions against raising chicken's for their manure to put in our fields, just like our grandparents used to, adds additional costs of fertilizer, time and energy, increasing the large burden on us already. We need these additional positions in the College of Tropical Agriculture because we cannot afford the high cost of pesticides and fertilizer that the university has been teaching farmers to use since the 'green revolution.' My great-grandparents were immigrants from Japan. They grew their food organically because they didn't have money to buy food let alone fancy fertilizers. Nothing was wasted, everything was recycled or fed to something, even if it were for the earthworms. Now I grow food organically, because I can't afford to shop at Whole Foods everyday and neither can most of my friends or relatives. We need more University Extension Specialists that are not biotech & chemical sales people but real farmers who understand these economic realities and can teach us how to go back to low cost, organic, nutrient-rich foods grown on healthy soil without toxic poisons, like the way our ancestors here in Hawaii had done successfully for centuries. Please invest in Hawaii's future! Support SB2141

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Cc: dark@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2141 on Feb 16, 2016 13:15PM
Date: Monday, February 15, 2016 5:04:39 PM

SB2141

Submitted on: 2/15/2016

Testimony for HEA/WLA on Feb 16, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Darlene Kutara	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this bill to appropriate funding for the UH sustainable and organic agriculture program. We who live in Hawaii must be able to provide safe food for our population. This requires us to have the technical skills to do so.

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Cc: Akamaimom@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2141 on Feb 16, 2016 13:15PM
Date: Tuesday, February 16, 2016 5:28:06 AM

SB2141

Submitted on: 2/16/2016

Testimony for HEA/WLA on Feb 16, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Felicia Cowden	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please SUPPORT SB2141 funding UH positions to support organic agriculture. Regenerative farming practices actually ARE traditional agriculture. We need state support to return to resilient practices that will be able to effectively feed the future without destroying our natural environment. Placing a focus by the university systems in a position of support of healthy agriculture will both foster the return to this essential practice of food production and help to turn around the mindset of the state department of agriculture to support local food production. These positions are a step in the right direction.

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Cc: waioli2@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2141 on Feb 16, 2016 13:15PM
Date: Tuesday, February 16, 2016 11:07:49 AM

SB2141

Submitted on: 2/16/2016

Testimony for HEA/WLA on Feb 16, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
chris kobayashi	Individual	Support	No

Comments: aloha committee members. i am a Taro farmer who transitioned our conventional family farm to using organic inputs, 19 years ago. and we will not go back. we learned slowly but surely from other organic farmers, books, workshops, conferences, but mostly from our personal experiences and observations. we need to have trained extension agents in our counties and a strong organic program at UH so that farmers who want organic training, can hit the fields running. there is an urgency now to produce healthy food but also to cultivate healthy soils. from website: <http://www.statista.com/topics/1047/organic-food-industry/> "Natural and organic food is the fastest-growing sector of the American food marketplace, and made up 5.8 percent of total food sales in 2010. As of spring 2012, about 40.39 million people purchased organic food in the United States. One of the main reasons why U.S. consumers eat organic foods is because they are concerned about exposure to toxins in non-organic foods, which correlates to the fact that the consumers believe these products to be more nutritious than other food."

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