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Deputy to the Chairperson

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

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

**FEBRUARY 6, 2018
1:15 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2069
RELATING TO ULU**

Chairperson Gabbard, Chairperson Kahele and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2069, which makes an appropriation for research, development, marketing and conservation of 'ulu. The Department supports this bill provided it does not impact the Department's priorities listed in the Executive Budget and offers a comment.

The Department recognizes that it lacks the scientific technologies, tools and expertise to develop micropropagation methods for rapid expansion of plantings, to develop shelf-stable products for retail sale, and to develop uses for the latex and inflorescence for insect repellent properties. The Department, however, has been actively engaged in the marketing of 'ulu, through collaboration with agencies such as the Breadfruit Institute of the National Tropical Botanical Garden, Hawaiian Homegrown Food Network, Hawaii 'Ulu Producers Cooperative and Mililani Agricultural Park, on projects to achieve commercial success for Hawaii-grown 'ulu. In July 2016, the Hawaii 'Ulu Producers Cooperative introduced their ready-to-eat, vacuum-packed, 'ulu value-added product to the hotel, restaurant and institutional sectors in the Department's section at the Hawaii Lodging, Hospitality and Foodservice Expo. The Cooperative reports that because of their participation, through contacts made at the show, they are



currently working with the Department of Education to provide 10,000 pounds of their value-added product for school lunches across the State.

The Department comments that the marketing of 'ulu should be assigned to the Agricultural Development Division (ADD), as they are responsible for the marketing of Hawaii agricultural products. The additional funding will allow ADD to expand the promotion and marketing of 'ulu to local, domestic and international consumers. The Department believes that it is both practicable and advantageous to assign the marketing portion to ADD as they have had success with marketing 'ulu and will be able to continue to work in collaboration with the University of Hawaii, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, agricultural associations and non-profit organizations to achieve commercial success for Hawaii-grown 'ulu through state and federally funded projects.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
And

Senate Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, February 6, 2018 at 1:15 pm

By

Nicholas Comerford

Dean, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

And

Michael Bruno, Vice Chancellor
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 2069 – RELATING TO 'ULU

Chairs Gabbard and Kahele, Vice Chairs Riviere and Kim, and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment and Committee on Higher Education:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 2069.

Breadfruit is indeed a commercial crop in Hawai'i that has not met its commercial potential. Statewide surveys show that the number of commercial trees is growing. It is culturally and historically significant to the state. Early signs of potential industry engagement are the recent establishment of processors, of a breadfruit cooperative, and of farm-to-school programs.

The College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources has expertise that can address the tasks itemized in Section 2.

- (1) Developing breadfruit businesses that have demonstrated significant product sales – CTAHR has edible crop Extension Agents throughout the state that can help individual farmers with existing information on the production of this crop. CTAHR has recently hired a faculty member to work on value added food products, who could potentially work on breadfruit issues.
- (2) Performing research that is directly supporting farmers and industry development – CTAHR has researchers that are currently working with 'ulu. Most notable is the work of Dr. Noa Lincoln that has developed a citizen research program state-wide to better understand the growth and development of the tree and its crop. One of the objectives of this program is to boost local 'ulu production (<https://www.hawaii.edu/news/2017/11/06/local-breadfruit-citizen-project/> ; <http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/story/36779251/citizen-scientists-wanted-to->

[help-study-the-ulu-plant](#)) . In addition, CTAHR has expertise in fruit tree management, post-harvest treatment, and related soil management.

- (3) Providing ancillary support such as tree production, marketing and public education – CTAHR, through its Extension program can promote the crop through its educational programs by translating research into actionable practices. Currently, CTAHR has a publication entitled – “Breadfruit; ethnobotany, nutrition, and human ecology” as an example of current information that can immediately be brought to the issue.

We support SB 2069 under the conditions that it does not affect, and is in addition to, the UH budget request.

SB-2069

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 7:32:41 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Ho'omanapono Political Action Committee (HPAC)	Support	Yes

Comments:

We STRONGLY SUPPORT this bill. Ulu flour is the highest form of gluten free flour in the world! That's a major economic incentive to engage in Ulu Agriculture. Mahalo.

SB-2069

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 12:25:17 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2069

Submitted on: 2/2/2018 11:53:15 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Debra Koonohiokala Norenberg		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2069

Submitted on: 2/3/2018 5:59:52 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kat Culina		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2069

Submitted on: 2/3/2018 5:04:35 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Noa Lincoln		Support	Yes

Comments:

SB-2069

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 8:54:48 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy Brinker		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2069

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 10:42:28 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pauline Sato		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senator Gabbard, Senator Kahale, and members of the Agriculture and Environment and Higher Education Committees,

I am writing as an individual citizen in favor of bill SB2069, which supports research and product development for 'ulu, breadfruit. I have become a strong believer in the value of 'ulu in our diets and its potential to be a substantial food source for Hawaii's people and agricultural economic driver. While the 'ulu tree's production can be abundant, the science is still not there to bring production to full scale. And processing of 'ulu needs much more research and development for commercial purposes. The interest among researchers and community are coming together for 'ulu production and what is needed is "seed" money to support this collaboration. Please support bill SB2069.

Mahalo, Pauline Sato

SB-2069

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 12:37:05 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl		Support	No

Comments:

‘ulu is an important part of our islands and the sustainability that we very much need. ‘ulu is integrated into our island culture and traditions. I fully support funds to assist the continued growth and proliferation of ‘ulu. Personally speaking, my own class garden was given an ulu by the Breadfruit Society and it has been an important part of the children’s learning as well.

C. Burghardt