JOSH GREEN Lt. Governor



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

### TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LOWER & HIGHER EDUCATION

FEBRUARY 1, 2019 2:00 P.M. CONFERENCE ROOM 309

HOUSE BILL NO. 1102 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE EDUCATION

Chairperson Woodson and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1102. The purpose of this bill is to establish a coordinator of the P-20 agriculture education working group to support the continuing efforts of the P-20 agriculture education working group to lead the implementation plan for a coordinated framework of support for P-20 agriculture education in Hawaii. The Department of Agriculture supports this measure.

Senate Resolution No. 80, SLH 2016, created the P-20 working group with a task to develop strategies to increase agricultural education within the local school system. This resolution highlighted the importance of increasing agricultural education among Hawaii's keiki and investing in the State's agricultural industry by influencing a future generation of local agriculturalists. This bill seeks to fund a coordinator position with operational funding to coordinate that task.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





# **UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM**

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Lower and Higher Education Friday, February 1, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. By Nicholas Comerford Dean, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources And Michael Bruno Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Vice Chancellor for Research University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 1102 - RELATING TO AGRICULTURE EDUCATION

Chair Woodson, Vice Chairs Hashem and Perruso, and members of the House Committee on Lower and Higher Education:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 1102 relating to agriculture education and establishes and appropriates funds for the P-20 agriculture education coordinator position within the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM), College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR). This bill also outlines the duties of the coordinator and P-20 agriculture education working group. UHM/CTAHR <u>supports</u> the intent of this bill and we respectfully provide the following information to substantiate our position.

- Preschool through grade 20 (higher education) agriculture education is key to the development of future farmers and to a society that values and understands the vital role of agriculture, food, fiber, and natural resource systems in advancing personal, local, and global well-being and food security.
- UHM/CTAHR convened a working group under Senate Resolution 80 (2015) and developed a coordinated framework of support for preschool through post-secondary (P-20) agriculture education and a plan for implementation.
- The outcome of the working group was the consensus that a P-20 Agriculture Education Coordinator position is needed within UHM/CTAHR for the purpose of overseeing ongoing communication and collaboration of the P-20 Agriculture Education Working Group and spearheading the Implementation Plan that includes:
  - Teacher Development: Teacher training in agriculture and food systems education at all levels (P-20) for those preparing to become teachers ("pre-service teachers"), as well as additional professional development for those already in classrooms ("in-service teachers").

- Curricular Integration: Integrating agriculture education into the core curriculum in all subject areas at all levels (P-20).
- Agriculture Educators: Helping to establish and fund positions at the state, community, and school levels that directly support teacher development and curricular integration around agriculture and food systems.

The report highlights the large number of organizations working in this area. What is evident is the amount of overlap and lack of coordination between organizations. More effective effort on this topic could be had if there was some level of coordination among groups; and this position could also seek to provide that. We support this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our University of Hawai'i Board of Regents Approved Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



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, 2019

### HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LOWER & HIGHER EDUCATION

### **TESTIMONY ON HB 1102** RELATING TO AGRICULTURE EDUCATION

Room 312 9:00 AM

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chairs Hashem and Perruso, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director 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 interests of our diverse agricultural community.

**The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports HB 1102,** which establishes and appropriates funds for the P-20 agriculture education coordinator position within the University of Hawaii at Manoa college of tropical agriculture and human resources and specifies the duties of the coordinator and P-20 agriculture education working group.

It is commonly known that the average age of a farmer in Hawaii is approximately 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.

The Hawaii Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, under then-Director Dwight Takamine's and then-HDOA Chair Russell 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 to address Ag Labor. The Hawaii Agriculture Skill Panel Report was the result of the stakeholder meetings. The report made a number of recommendations, of which several common themes emerged. #1 of those themes was "Increasing youth education and training".

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

In 2015, Hawaii State Senate Resolution No. 80 requested that the UH-Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) develop an "implementation strategy and recommendations for the creation of a statewide coordinated framework of support for P–20 agriculture education, including any proposed legislation." SR 80 sought to build upon the expertise of CTAHR and create a coordinated effort to address Ag education. It bears mentioning that CTAHR currently serves on the Ag Workforce Development Advisory Board.

Hawaii Farm Bureau suggests that a relationship continues with the existing Agricultural Workforce Advisory Board and the P-20 agriculture education working group.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure

# Testimony for HB1102 - Submitted by Nancy Redfeather – Ka Ohana O Na Pua

DATE: Friday, February 1, 2019TIME: 2:00 p.m.PLACE: Conference Room 309

Aloha Committee Chairs, Vice-Chairs & Members,

I was fortunate to attend all the meetings of the P-20 Agriculture Education Working Group that were held over the three year period. To my knowledge, it was the first time there has been a concerted, coordinated statewide effort by all those working directly with agricultural programs in the Elementary School, Middle and High School, and the UH system. This work created a coordinated Framework and envisioned support for agricultural education P-20 that would raise the level of knowledge and awareness of both programs at all grade levels and GAPS in the Framework, in the overlapping areas of agriculture, nutrition, health, environment, and their deep connections to culture and community and would greatly assist the States food security needs.

We firmly believe and have evidence, that greater investment in agricultural education will in the long-term, build aware and participatory citizens, develop vibrant community food systems and create a more robust agricultural economy for the State. Our findings are summarized in the Final Report to the Legislature that has been recently submitted and sent to each of you.

This Bill reflects our most important recommendation, that an Agriculture Education Coordinator be placed in CTAHR UH Manoa, to continue the work this group has outlined in the report, and focus it's early work plan on developing more opportunities for Professional Development for our Teachers grades PreK-20 that will afford them the opportunity to integrate these concepts into their core curriculum. In this case as in many others, increased opportunities for education can be looked at as an investment in increased Career Opportunities and life-long healthy habits that will help build our State's Agricultural Economy.

See my attachment that outlines the Investment by private family foundations in Hawai'i who supported this work for the past decade. Our State Institutions ( The DOE, UH Manoa and UHWO) must now help build this reality through this position. Mahalo for your consideration of this important Bill, the work of so many.

Aloha, Nancy Redfeather

P-20 Agriculture Education Working Group & the Hawai'i Farm to School Hui



February 24, 2015

# HB1102: RELATING TO AGRICULTURE EDUCATION

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair Decoite, and Members of the Committee:

Title: University of Hawaii; P20 Agriculture Educaiton Coordinator; Working Group; Implementation Plan; Appropriation (\$)

The Maui School Garden Network strongly supports HB1102.

For the past 10 years, MSGN has worked for increasing the number of students in the State of Hawaii who desire to follow a career in the field of agriculture and natural resources or related fields. We currently oversee 40 school garden/high school ag programs on the islands of Maui and Lana'i along with our partner, Grow Some Good.

Pursuant to the unfunded 2015 Senate Resolution (SR) 80 UH Manoa CTAHR (College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources) convened a working group that included the Hawai'i State Farm to School Hui as well as representation from both governmental and non-government stakeholders for the purpose of developing a coordinated framework of support for preschool through post secondary agriculture education with a plan for implementation. For the past three years, annual reports to the Hawai'i State Legislature have been submitted with the culmination of a final report to the Hawai'i State 2019 Legislature which includes a coordinated framework of support for agriculture education.

HB1102 includes a request for the establishment and funding of a P-20 Agriculture Education Coordinator position within UH CTAHR to oversee and spearhead the implementation of this framework. MSGN has been developing curriculum that follows from the framework for several years now and is ready and willing to move to the next level in supporting this framework in every way possible.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Lehn Huff, Director, Maui School Garden Network



HUI MEMBER CORE	Date:	January 31, 2019
ORGANIZATIONS:	To:	Representative Justin Woodson, Chair
Grow Some Good/ <b>Maui</b>		Representative Mark Hashem, Vice Chair
School Garden Network		Representative Amy Perruso, Vice Chair
ʻlolani School/ <b>Oʻahu Farm</b>		Members of the House Committee on Lower & Higher Education
to School Network	Re:	Strong Support of HB1102, Relating to Agriculture Education
Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation	Hearing:	February 1, 2019 at 2:00pm in Conference Room 309
Mala'ai: Culinary Gardens		

Mala'ai: Culinary Gardens of Waimea Middle School/ Hawai'i Island School Garden Network

Mālama Kaua'i/Kaua'i School Garden Network

Sustainable Molokai/ Molokai School Garden Network

The Kohala Center

#### The Hawai'i Farm to

School Hui is a statewide network whose mission is to strengthen Hawaii's farm to school movement by supporting our island networks in the areas of capacity building, resource development and sharing, professional development, and policy development and advocacy. Farm to school programs include school gardens, education, and school food improvements through local procurement. The Hui is comprised of five island-level networks, community organizations and schools, and representatives from the Hawai'i Departments of Agriculture, Education, and Health and the University of Hawai'i. The Hui formed in 2010 and became a program of the Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) in 2017.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in <b>strong support of HB1102</b> which
establishes and appropriates funds for the P-20 Agriculture Education Coordinator
position within the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa College of Tropical Agriculture and
Human Resources (UH CTAHR).

This bill puts forth the recommendations of the **P-20 Agriculture Education Working Group** as detailed in <u>DC149</u>: the Final Report on a Coordinated Framework of Support for Preschool Through Post-Secondary (P-20) Agriculture Education in Hawai'i pursuant to S.R. No. 80 (2015).

Convened by UH CTAHR, the P-20 Agriculture Education Working Group has met for three years to develop the report and recommendations. Agriculture education at all levels (P-20) is key to strengthening Hawaii's food security and food self-sufficiency through the development of future farmers and a supportive citizenry. Fundamental to expanding student interest in agriculture is the infusion of agriculture education into teacher development programs.

The P-20 Agriculture Education Coordinator would coordinate and support teacher training in agriculture and food systems education at all levels (P-20) for those preparing to become teachers ("pre-service teachers"), as well as professional development for those already in classrooms ("in-service teachers"). The Coordinator would also continue to convene stakeholders through the P-20 Agriculture Education Working Group and facilitate curricular integration and the development of increased numbers of dedicated agriculture educators at the state, community, and school levels.

**UH CTAHR is in a unique position to help strengthen agriculture education in Hawai'i.** This bill is essential to increasing their capacity to do so.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to testify in strong support of HB1102.

Me Ke Aloha,

Lydi Bernal Coordinator, Hawai'i Farm to School Hui, Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI)

HB-1102 Submitted on: 1/31/2019 1:58:51 PM Testimony for LHE on 2/1/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

# <u>HB-1102</u>

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 10:00:28 AM Testimony for LHE on 2/1/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Denver Saxton Coon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Trilogy Excursions has been operating on the island of Maui for over 45 years, during which it has seen many changes to the island's agricultural activities. The education of the local youth in agriculture is an important step in ensuring the continued success of the islands. Accordingly, Trilogy supports HB1102 and its efforts to bolster local agricultural education.

#### HB-1102 Submitted on: 1/31/2019 12:32:39 PM Testimony for LHE on 2/1/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kathy Becklin	Individual	Support	No

#### Comments:

I've been working with school gardens for 10 years. We do so much to encourage future farmers and local healthy eating. I'm currently the Executive Director for Grow Some Good which supports 10 schools on Maui and about 4000 students K-8 each year. I see the enthusiasm in many students eyes about growing thier own food but we have to have programs at all grades level including ECE, high-school and post high school to make this happen. The Hui Working Group at the state level has worked on the P-20 Standards for over 3 years with input from many group that connect to the mission of increasing the number of farmers in our state. HB 1102 requires one small step to really make a difference across our state. So much work has gone into defining the what it takes to start creating farmers. It is very essential that this be approved to support agriculture in our State and provide healthy local foods to the people of this state.

January 31, 2019

Testimony: HB 1102 regarding P-20 Coordination

Committee on Lower and Higher Education

Rep. Just H. Woodson, Chair Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

Honorable Chair Woodson,

My Name is Michael Barros, I have recently retired from the Department of Education as the State Educational Specialist for the Career and Technical Education (CTE) I also was an Agriculture Education teacher at Waialua High and Intermediate for 10 years before moving into the state position. I am currently working part-time for the Department as the State Executive Secretary for the Hawaii Association Future Farmers of America (FFA).

I am writing to you in support of HB1120 regarding a P-20 Coordinator. If we are to attain food security in our state, we must have a strong and viable Agriculture Education program. Within the Department of Education, one of the biggest problem to sustain Agriculture Education Programs is finding qualified Agriculture Education teachers. Our own Hawaii College of Educations no longer has a teacher training programs for CTE. Having a coordinator working closely with the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) and the College of Education will go a long way is providing both pre-service and in-service professional development for teachers in agriculture education.

Thank you for your time and I urge you to support this bill.

HB-1102 Submitted on: 1/31/2019 2:02:16 PM Testimony for LHE on 2/1/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amanda Rieux	Mala?ai: The Culinary Garden of Waimea Middle School	Support	No



HB-1102 Submitted on: 1/31/2019 7:50:06 PM Testimony for LHE on 2/1/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris Manfredi	Hawaii Coffee Association	Support	No



### <u>HB-1102</u> Submitted on: 1/31/2019 8:40:42 PM Testimony for LHE on 2/1/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Suzanne Shriner	Synergistic Hawaii Agriculture Council	Support	No

Comments:

The Synergistic Hawaii Agriculture Council (SHAC) is a State of Hawaii non-profit trade organization. The three founding associations - the Hawaii Papaya Industry Association (HPIA), the Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association (HFNA), and the Hawaii Coffee Association (HCA) - represent close to 600 businesses, and 90 percent of their respective industry's production.

We recognize the challenges our industries face as our farmers age. We desperately need the next generaton of farmers to join us. The P-20 program is a good start towards showing Hawaii keiki that there is a future in Ag, and the future is them.

Please fund this position. Mahalo!





### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1102 House Committee on Lower & Higher Education Wednesday, February 1, 2019, 2pm, Room 309

Aloha Representatives,

Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation supports HB1102, which establishes and appropriates funds for the P-20 Agriculture Education Coordinator position within the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (UH CTAHR).

The Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded in 2003 to support environmental education in the schools and communities of Hawai'i. Our 'ĀINA In Schools program is a farm to school initiative launched in 2006 that connects children to their local land, waters, and food to grow a healthier Hawai'i. We work directly with 23 O'ahu elementary schools that have implemented the program and have also trained an additional 500+ educators from over 250 schools and organizations from across the state in the use of our 'ĀINA garden, composting, and nutrition curricula. While most of our work has focused on K-6 students, we have seen a huge need for increased agricultural education resources and teacher training reaching students from preschool through college.

HB1102 puts forth the recommendations of the P-20 Agriculture Education Working Group as detailed in DC149: the Final Report on a Coordinated Framework of Support for Preschool Through Post-Secondary (P-20) Agriculture Education in Hawai'i pursuant to S.R. No. 80 (2015). The P-20 Agriculture Education Coordinator will focus on integrating agriculture education into pre-service teacher development programs for all levels (P-20) in order to produce a greater number of teachers, students, and citizens with an awareness of and interest in agriculture. The Coordinator would also continue to convene stakeholders through the P-20 Agriculture Education Working Group and facilitate curricular integration and the development of increased numbers of dedicated agriculture educators at the state, community, and school levels.

We strongly urge you to vote in support of HB1102 to help strengthen agriculture education in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Jack Johnson, Co-Founder, Vice-President

KimØohnson, Co-Founder, President www.kokuahawaiifoundation.org

Natalie McKinney, Executive Director

P.O. Box 866, Hale'iwa, HI 96712 • Tel: (808) 638-5145 • Fax: (808) 638-0757 • info@kokuahawaiifoundation.org The Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that supports environmental education in the schools and communities of Hawai'i.



### <u>HB-1102</u> Submitted on: 1/31/2019 7:33:50 PM Testimony for LHE on 2/1/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Debbie Millikan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Members of the House Committee on Lower and Higher Education,

I am writing in support of HB1102 which establishes and appropriates funds for the P-20 Agriculture Education Coordinator position within the University of Hawai'i at MÄ• noa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (UH CTAHR). This coordinator position is critical to move our state forward in food sustainability and security. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify.



Hawai'i Aquaculture & Aquaponics Association

Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council

Hawai'i Farm Bureau Federation

Hawai'i Farmers' Union United

Hawai'i Food Industry Association

Hawai'i Food Manufacturers Association

Kohala Center

Land Use Research Foundation of Hawai'i

Malama Kaua'i

Maui School Garden Network

Ulupono Initiative

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



#### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LOWER & HIGHER EDUCATION Friday, February 1, 2019 – 2:00 PM - Room 309

### RE: HB 1102 - Relating to Agriculture Education - In Support

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chairs Hashem and Perruso and Members of the Committee:

The Local Food Coalition **strongly supports HB 1102**, which establishes and appropriates funds for the P-20 agriculture education coordinator position within the University of Hawaii at Manoa College of tropical agriculture and human resources.

We commend the efforts of the P-20 agriculture education working group which developed a coordinated framework of support for P-20 agriculture education and a plan for implementation. This coordinator position is needed to implement the plan.

Agricultural education is vital in developing future generations to be agriculturally literate. A comprehensive and coordinated agricultural education framework will expose students to agriculture and by doing so, hopefully increase the number of local farms and farmers, and local food production. This effort will be a major contribution towards achieving the goal of doubling local agriculture production by 2030.

The Local Food Coalition is an organization comprising of farmers, ranchers, livestock producers, investors and other organizations working to provide Hawaii's food supply.

We respectfully request your support of HB 1102. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

John Garibaldi 808-544-8319 jgaribaldi@wik.com



HB-1102 Submitted on: 2/1/2019 10:21:38 AM Testimony for LHE on 2/1/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keith Ranney	Individual	Support	No



HB-1102 Submitted on: 2/1/2019 10:34:14 AM Testimony for LHE on 2/1/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Linda Hastings	Individual	Support	No



### HB-1102 Submitted on: 2/1/2019 10:37:41 AM Testimony for LHE on 2/1/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katie Romanchuk	Individual	Support	No

#### Comments:

This bill supports Ag practices that I support re: healthy soils, education re: farming, getting more programs into schools and healthy local food into school cafeterias. The average age for farmers in Hawaii now is 65. We need to work towards sustainability and bring young blood into farming, for the future health of Hawaii. Thank you. Katie Romamchuk

HB-1102 Submitted on: 2/1/2019 11:29:49 AM Testimony for LHE on 2/1/2019 2:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ken Stover	Individual	Support	No

HB-1102 Submitted on: 2/1/2019 11:32:40 AM Testimony for LHE on 2/1/2019 2:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Suellen Barton	Maui Farmers Union United	Support	No

HB-1102 Submitted on: 2/1/2019 11:34:23 AM Testimony for LHE on 2/1/2019 2:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Helmut Klauer	A'a Li'i Farm	Support	No



HB-1102 Submitted on: 2/1/2019 11:53:43 AM Testimony for LHE on 2/1/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris Baz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am happy to support ag education. I am 75 this year and feel the need to get younger people eductated and excited about sustainable agricutlure. This is very important for our future

thanks

chris baz

<u>HB-1102</u> Submitted on: 2/1/2019 12:02:08 PM Testimony for LHE on 2/1/2019 2:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kekai Quartero	K&R Enterprises	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Kakahiaka kakou,

Being limited in resources and requiring competent and comprehensive leadership, and where sustainability is the major issue facing Hawaii in the current times, I support appropriate funding being allocated for the P-20 agriculture education coordinator position within the University of Hawaii at Manoa college of tropical agriculture and human resources. Thank you for your help in making Hawaii a land of aloha.

Regards,

**Robert Quartero** 



HB-1102 Submitted on: 2/1/2019 2:11:40 PM Testimony for LHE on 2/1/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joy Nelson	Individual	Support	No

## Aloha,

I am writing in support of HB1102. I speak as a former Department of Education agriculture education and Future Farmers of America (FFA) teacher and state educational specialist and program manager. I also vouch for my 96 year old former ag teacher father, and generations of agriculture teachers and students going back to 1930's. Our family life was centered on ag ed and the FFA, and I have personally seen how these programs and dedicated teachers have positively impacted students of very diverse backgrounds, helping them to assume leadership positions in agribusiness, business, politics and education.

The decades old FFA motto of "Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, and Living to Serve" was founded on the higher education research model and resonates with "current" best teaching practices including project-based learning and STEM content. Although the secondary ag ed program suffered enrollment losses after the turn of the century, a dedicated group of teachers kept ag ed and the FFA alive due in large part to the support of like-minded thinkers and doers from what I will loosely call the "Sustainability Movement." Many of these people belong to the P-20 working group and in a short time, their support has helped to reset the secondary ag ed program and put it on a new trajectory.

These visionaries have become a powerful driving force to bring Hawaii closer to our food and energy sustainability goals. Their work is expressed through nonprofit organizations, government agencies, the private sector, through forward looking primary education teachers and administrators, and through a growing group of secondary education teachers and administrators, who see ag ed as a way to teach academics through contextual and real world learning.

The DC 149 document identifies a wealth of resources waiting to be accessed and used by educators throughout the P-20 continuum. As a member of the working group, I have experienced and been motivated and informed by superbly qualified facilitators and professionals from the University of Hawaii system and associated support groups, and I therefore appeal to this committee to source and fund a permanent position to keep the momentum going and to coordinate a wealth of human and material resources to advance ag ed.

Ken Kajihara