



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education & Technology
Friday, February 10, 2023, at 2:30 p.m.

By

Della Teraoka

Interim Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, Community Colleges
University of Hawai'i System

HB 313 HD1 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Perruso, Vice Chair Kapela, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of HB 313 HD1, which proposes to appropriate funds to the University of Hawai'i to establish a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program at a University of Hawai'i community college program, and to identify and purchase foreign agricultural technology, including small equipment tractors, and retrofit engines to comply with the EPA's emission standards for small engines.

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of HB 313 HD1, on the condition its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 313 HD1.



February 8, 2023

Representative Amy A. Perruso, Chair
Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair
House Committee on Higher Education & Technology

**Testimony in Support of HB 313, H.D. 1, Relating to Agriculture
(Appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii to establish a foreign
agriculture small equipment pilot program; requires a report to the
legislature; effective 7/1/3000.)**

**Friday, February 10, 2023, at 2:30 p.m.,
State Capitol Conference Room 309, Via Videoconference.**

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers, and utility companies. LURF's mission is to advocate for reasonable, rational, and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural and cultural resources, and public health and safety.

LURF appreciates the opportunity to express its **support of HB 313, H.D. 1** and of the various agricultural stakeholder groups who defend the goals of viable agricultural operations and the conservation and protection of agriculture, including important agricultural lands (IAL) in Hawaii.

HB 313, H.D. 1. This bill proposes to appropriate funds to the University of Hawaii to establish a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program to identify and purchase foreign agricultural technology, including small equipment tractors and retrofit engines to comply with the United States Environmental Protection Agency's emission standards for small engines. This measure is vital to farmers and ranchers who must resort to alternative means and technology to operate their farms due to the increase in demand for unskilled labor.

LURF's Position. LURF members include farmers and ranchers who own, maintain, and engage in agricultural enterprises, and who consider such assistance immensely helpful, if not critical to the conduct of their operations and to help sustain their local businesses.

The purpose of this bill is consistent with the underlying intent and objectives of the IAL laws (Hawaii Revised Statutes, Sections 205-41 to 52), which were enacted to fulfill the mandate in Article XI, Section 3, of the Hawaii State Constitution, “to conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, increase agricultural self-sufficiency and assure the availability of agriculturally suitable lands.”

LURF therefore appreciates the objective of HB 313, H.D. 1, which is to support agriculture and provide needed assistance to agriculture-related or agribusinesses operations. Passage of the long-awaited IAL legislation would be meaningless without implementation of such measures. The establishment of the foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program is critically needed to help support viable agricultural activity in this State.

By recognizing the need to assist the local agriculture industry and the significance of implementing incentives and measures which help to support the growth and maintenance of agriculture in the State, this bill significantly helps to promote economically viable agriculture and food self-sufficiency in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of this measure.



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

February 10, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION & TECHNOLOGY

TESTIMONY ON HB 313, HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Conference Room 309 & Videoconference
2:30 PM

Aloha Chair Perruso, Vice-Chair Kapela, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports HB 313, HD1, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawai'i to establish a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program.

As the demand for agricultural labor continues to increase, while the availability of labor decreases, farmers and ranchers continue to look for alternative means to operate their farms through technology, like small equipment tractors. A limited number of weed management solutions and the increase in labor costs have made weed management a major challenge for many small farmers in Hawai'i. Many small farmers also require smaller harvesting and field prep equipment that is not readily available in Hawai'i. These growers include vegetable crops, wetland crops, and livestock forage crops. There is a need to identify high-technology small equipment and evaluate its applicability for Hawai'i's diverse agriculture systems.

Countries such as Japan have small equipment that is suitable for Hawai'i's small farmers, however, the engines that are attached to small equipment from foreign countries like Japan are not in compliance with EPA standard regulations. This pilot program would help identify desired small equipment as well as find solutions that would allow Hawai'i farmers to import foreign equipment that complies with EPA standards.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



MAUI COUNTY FARM BUREAU

PO Box 148, Kula, HI 96790
mauicountyfarmbureau.org

TESTIMONY

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY

February 10, 2023
2:30PM
Conference Room 309

HB 313 HD1

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Perruso and Members of the Committee:

Maui County Farm Bureau (MCFB) appreciates this opportunity to testify on this important issue. MCFB is a general agriculture advocacy organization representing farm and ranch families and organizations on the island of Maui.

MCFB strongly supports HB313 HD1 seeking to appropriate funds to UH-CTAHR to explore small equipment from foreign countries to increase mechanization on farm and ranch operations.

Mechanization is a major impediment to expansion of farming in Hawaii. Currently much of crop production work depends on manual labor. This results in a negative perception of farming as an occupation. Thailand, Vietnam, Japan, China all have small scale equipment designed for farms that are similar in size to those in Hawaii. Hawaii farmers have faced an additional challenge with the lack of access to technology due to the lack of focus on agricultural engineering at the University of Hawaii. The decline of the major agricultural crops sugarcane and pineapple had the unintended consequence of the loss of engineering capacity that assisted with equipment modification while meeting the larger equipment needs of those industries.

MCFB respectfully requests your strong support of HB307 in the interest of supporting Hawaii's agricultural production. Here is a tomato harvester in Japan specifically designed for small farms. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XIXSGqvP-A8> . While production per unit time may be slower than a human, the machines have proven to be reliable resulting in higher productivity over time. However EPA emission requirements do not exist in these countries and therefore, importing them for use in Hawaii is not possible without adapting them to meet U.S. standards.

This measure is critical to address one of the pinch points for Hawaii agriculture. MCFB respectfully requests your strong support to providing CTAHR with funds to help farmers in this critical area. Collaboration with the School of Engineering will help increase the relevancy of the University to the people of Hawaii.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our opinion on this matter. Please contact Warren Watanabe at 8082819718 if there are any questions.

HB-313-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 6:32:56 PM

Testimony for HET on 2/10/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
DAVID N FELL	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe the equipment is already available and this seems a waste of money.

HB-313-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2023 12:55:03 PM

Testimony for HET on 2/10/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nathaniel Myers	Waihunahuna Foundation	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Perruso, Vice-Chair Kapela, and Members of the Committee:

I support HB 313, HD1, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawai‘i to establish a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program.

As the demand for agricultural labor continues to increase, while the availability of labor decreases, farmers and ranchers continue to look for alternative means to operate their farms through technology, like small equipment tractors. A limited number of weed management solutions and the increase in labor costs have made weed management a major challenge for many small farmers in Hawai‘i. Many small farmers also require smaller harvesting and field prep equipment that is not readily available in Hawai‘i. These growers include vegetable crops, wetland crops, and livestock forage crops. There is a need to identify high-technology small equipment and evaluate its applicability for Hawai‘i’s diverse agriculture systems.

Countries such as Japan have small equipment that is suitable for Hawai‘i’s small farmers, however, the engines that are attached to small equipment from foreign countries like Japan are not in compliance with EPA standard regulations. This pilot program would help identify desired small equipment as well as find solutions that would allow Hawai‘i farmers to import foreign equipment that complies with EPA standards.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Mahalo,

Nathan Myers

Director, Waihunahuna Foundation

HB-313-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 8:18:31 AM

Testimony for HET on 2/10/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Randy Cabral	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly support

HB-313-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 9:45:49 AM

Testimony for HET on 2/10/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gary R Ueunten	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We support HB 313. As a small farmer in Hawaii we struggle to find equipment that fit the needs of our small farm. Having the University of Hawaii develop crop cultivation plans that include the use of appropriate sized equipment for small farms in Hawaii would increase profitability and production.

HB-313-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 10:59:21 AM

Testimony for HET on 2/10/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hugh Starr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Perruso, Vice Chair Kapela and Committee:

I write to indicate support for HB313, HD1. Hawaii's agricultural industry is expanding in a new and diversified manner. The industry must be able to appropriately scale, especially given the horrific labor challenges Hawaii Ag is confronted with. This creative idea is worthy of our support and analysis.

Thank you.

Hugh Starr, Momona Farm

Olinda Maui

HB-313-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 3:09:48 PM

Testimony for HET on 2/10/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frederick M. Mencher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Perruso, Vice-Chair Kapela, and Members of the Committee:

I support HB 313, HD1, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawai‘i to establish a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program.

As the demand for agricultural labor continues to increase, while the availability of labor decreases, farmers and ranchers continue to look for alternative means to operate their farms through technology, like small equipment tractors. A limited number of weed management solutions and the increase in labor costs have made weed management a major challenge for many small farmers in Hawai‘i. Many small farmers also require smaller harvesting and field prep equipment that is not readily available in Hawai‘i. These growers include vegetable crops, wetland crops, and livestock forage crops. There is a need to identify high-technology small equipment and evaluate its applicability for Hawai‘i’s diverse agriculture systems.

Countries such as Japan have small equipment that is suitable for Hawai‘i’s small farmers, however, the engines that are attached to small equipment from foreign countries like Japan are not in compliance with EPA standard regulations. This pilot program would help identify desired small equipment as well as find solutions that would allow Hawai‘i farmers to import foreign equipment that complies with EPA standards.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Frederick M. Mencher