

SB-663

Submitted on: 2/10/2023 5:39:32 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/14/2023 3:07:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Colehour Bondera | Testifying for Kanalani Ohana Farm | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair & Committee Members:

I send this to you from my past 21 years as a farmer and experience working with governmnetal and non-profit entities.

As a long-time organic farmer and someone who served the USDA on the National Organic Standards Board, as well as Board Member of Beyond Pesticides and President Emeritus and current Board Member of Kona Coffee Farmers Association, it has been sad that CTAHR does not seek and strive to educate farmers through experienced agricultural eduction specialists.

That said, for my two masters' degrees from University of California at Davis, I worked with the Cooperative Extension office and Specialist of a rural CA County in order to seek what the farmers neded and how to best so achieve.

My point is that I bring extensive understanding and experience to the table, and I hereby request that you fully support this piece of legislatation and enactment.

Thanks for your atention.

Colehour Bondera

KANALANI OHANA FARM

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JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE JOINT COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2023
3:07 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 229 AND VIDEO CONFERENCING

SENATE BILL NO. 663
RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Kim, Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on Senate Bill 663. This bill appropriates funds to establish a full-time agriculture education coordinator position within the University of Hawaii at Manoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources.

As a steadfast advocate for local agriculture, the Department of Agriculture fully supports this measure. This new position is critical to implement the framework recommended by the Agriculture Education Working Group to grow the number of students exposed to career pathways in agriculture and food systems at all levels of K-12 and post-secondary education. It also facilitates increasing the number of trained educators and producers in local agriculture and food systems.

Thank you for your consideration on this measure.





UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, February 14, 2023 at 3:07 p.m.

By

Anna Wieczorek, Interim Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

And

Michael Bruno, Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 663 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chairs Gabbard and Kim, Vice Chairs Richards and Kidani, and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment and Senate Committee on Higher Education:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 663 relating to the University of Hawai'i and appropriates funds for a full-time agricultural education coordinator in the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR), University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

As mentioned in SB 663, CTAHR convened the P-20 Agriculture Education Working Group, and the major recommendation contained in the group's final report to the 2019 legislature was the recommendation to appoint an agriculture education coordinator. This bill is a continuing attempt to act on that recommendation. We believe that the work done by the Working Group was highly collaborative and valuable, and that the need for such a program coordinator is justified.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated that the State of Hawai'i must create a more sustainable agriculture industry to support local food production and a diverse agricultural economy.

If SB 663 is passed and funded, this agriculture education coordinator will work across the UH system, including our Community Colleges, Hawai'i Department of Education, as well as other members representing the original Working Group.

Better coordination of already existing agriculture education programs across the State, will provide a diversity of educational options to meet Hawai'i's needs to "grow more farmers".

Furthermore, by working together we will be able to increase the number of people in our State that will have the professional and technical skills to pursue employment opportunities in food and agriculture.

In summary, the University of Hawai'i supports SB 663 provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our Board of Regents Approved Budget.



THE SENATE
KA 'AHA KENEKOA

THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2023

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 14, 2023 3:07 PM
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

RE: SB663 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

My name is Eric S. Tanouye and I am the President for the Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association. HFNA is a statewide umbrella organization with approximately 350 members. Our membership is made up with breeders, hybridizers, propagators, growers, shippers, wholesalers, retailers, educators, and the allied industry, which supports our efforts in agriculture.

The Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association (HFNA) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS Senate Bill 663**

We support the purpose of this bill, which is to support a coordinated framework for agriculture education by appropriating funds for a full time agriculture education coordinator position within the University of Hawaii at Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR).



A better funded CTAHR, will help Hawaii's agriculture, which in turns helps Hawaii to have a more robust economy. It will also all support the State to further it's goals of better food resiliency.

If you have any questions at this time, I would be happy to discuss them and can be reached by phone at 808-959-3535 ext 22, cell 960-1433 and email eric@greenpointnursery.com.

Supporting Agriculture and Hawaii,



Eric S. Tanouye
President

Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

SB-663

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 1:39:22 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/14/2023 3:07:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dana Keawe | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

support