



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 Agriculture and Food Systems
Wednesday, February 7, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.

By

Anna Wieczorek, Interim Dean

Walter Bowen, Associate Dean of Research
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

And

Michael Bruno, Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 2138 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2138 relating to agriculture education and appropriates funds to the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UH) for the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR), to establish an agriculture education coordinator position.

As mentioned in HB 2138, 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 impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and natural disasters have 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 HB 2138 is passed and funded, the agriculture education coordinator will work across the UH system, including our Community Colleges, Hawai'i Department of Education, and other members representing the original Working Group.

Better coordination of 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 who will have the professional and technical skills to pursue employment opportunities in food and agriculture.

In summary, the University of Hawai'i CTAHR supports HB 2138 provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our Board of Regents approved budget.

HB-2138

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:28:48 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Colehour Bondera	Kanalani Ohana Farm	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members:

Please accept our strong support for HB2138.

As a long-time operating organic farm, we think that there can and should be CTAHR-led coordination for needed agricultural education across Hawaii.

Many times farmer requests for educational support are not met. But one example has been in the Kona district related to organic focused outreach/education, which has not been made available.

As the holder of a Masters degree in Agricultural Education for farmers, from the University of California at Davis, it is personally very sad that CTAHR has not sought means to educate further than those in place which benefit only a non-majority percentage of farmers and broader community members since a range of approaches have not been used.

Please support this legislation and require that enactment seek means to work with all of those affected, by using a range of educational styles and approaches.

Sincerely,

Colehour Bondera

KANALANI OHANA FARM

colemel2@gmail.com



Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: HB2138

Wednesday, February 7, 2023 9:30a.m. Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee,

HAPA supports HB2138 which Appropriates funds to the University of Hawai'i for the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources to establish an agriculture education coordinator position.

HAPA supports the establishment of an agriculture education coordinator position. Given that Hawai'i's farmer population is aging out, investing in agriculture education is one way to help to grow the next generation of farmers.

Agriculture education is one of the key elements identified in Hawai'i's comprehensive farm to school efforts. One cause of the shortage of new farmers in Hawai'i during the past several decades has been the decline in support for agriculture education from the State government, including training for agriculture teachers.

To meet the State's goals for increased food security and self-sufficiency, the number of local farms and farmers and the amount of food produced for local markets will need to increase significantly. Agriculture education is key to the development of future farmers and to a society that values and understands the vital role of agriculture and food systems to broader community well-being.

Please support HB 2138 to help grow Hawai'i's agricultural sector and bolster local food security. Mahalo for your consideration!

Please support HB2138.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', written in a cursive style.

Anne Frederick
Executive Director

HB-2138

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:15:04 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan B Roberts Emery	Green Party of Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB 2138 establishing an agriculture education coordinator position. As a farm worker myself I know that this work is hard, yet SO Very Satisfying! The youth need a strong leader to encourage them to see the value of farming on our Islands. We are the ones who need to support ourselves and become sustainable agriculturally, as the Islands once were. .

Agriculture education is one of the key elements identified in Hawai'i's comprehensive farm to school efforts. Our state needs to support agricultural education and increase our output of produce, fruit, meat, milk, eggs etc. Let us work together to help build our small farmers and support our local communities through better agricultural education.

Please support HB 2138 .
Mahalo for your consideration!

Susan RobertsEmery

Co chair GPH



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2024**

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa, Vice Chair

**Wednesday, February 7, 2024
9:30 AM**

**VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Conference Room 325
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street**

RE: HB2138 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE EDUCATION

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 House Bill 2138.**

We have had the privilege to find that UH CTAHR specialists and agents are knowledgeable and an important resource for the nurserymen and women of Hawaii.

We ask that you support CTAHR and appropriate funds to allow for one full-time agriculture education coordinator position.

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



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 7, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

TESTIMONY ON HB 2138
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
9:30 AM

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice-Chair Kahaloa, 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 2138, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii for the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources to establish an agriculture education coordinator position.

It is commonly known that the average age of a farmer in Hawai'i is approximately 60 years old. For agriculture to be sustainable, and to produce more local crops we must cultivate the next generation of farmers and ranchers.

The Hawai'i Department of Labor and Industrial Relations 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 Hawai'i Agriculture Skill Panel Report was the result of the stakeholder meetings. The report made several recommendations, of which several common themes emerged. The number one theme was "Increasing youth education and training".

In 2013, the Hawai'i 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 the Hawai'i 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 was an important step toward the future of agriculture in Hawai'i.

In 2015, Hawai'i 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.

HFB supports initiatives that help to educate and reconnect our children with agriculture. Through agriculture education programs, our children will gain an understanding and appreciation for agriculture which will result in healthier eating habits, stronger support for Hawai‘i’s agriculture industry, and will contribute to Hawai‘i’s food sustainability. We still have a long way to go to educate our children about agriculture. Creating an agriculture education coordinator position is another tool that will help in the education process. It is an investment to have well-informed consumers and supporters of Hawai‘i’s agricultural industry in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Food+ Policy Internship 2024

food@purplemaia.org

February 6, 2024

Subject: *HB2138 - Relating to Agricultural Education*

Aloha Chair Cedric Gates, Vice Chair Kristin Kahaloe, and the House Committee of Agriculture & Food Systems,

We are writing **IN SUPPORT** of **HB2138**, which proposes the creation of a position for an agriculture education coordinator. It is imperative that we invest in agriculture education as a way to develop the next generation of farmers given the increasing age of existing Hawai'i farmers.

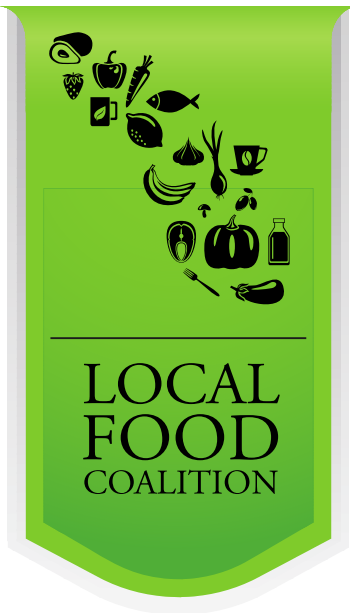
We are testifying in favor of **HB2138** because agricultural education plays a pivotal role in nurturing future farmers and fostering a society that appreciates and understands the critical significance of agriculture and food systems in promoting broader community well-being. It is especially critical in meeting the state's goals for self-sufficiency and food security.

We urge the committee to pass HB2138. We would like to thank Chair Cedric Gates, Vice Chair Kristin Kahaloe, and the House Committee of Agriculture & Food Systems for considering the comments herein.

Mahalo,
Janine Mariano & Hawaii Food+ Policy Team
#fixourfoodsystem

The Food+ Policy internship develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2024, the cohort of interns are undergrads and graduate students from throughout the UH System. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS
Wednesday, February 7, 2024 – 9:30 a.m.– Conference Room 325
& Videoconference

HB 2138 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION
SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, and Members of the Committee:

The Local Food Coalition **SUPPORTS** HB 2138, which appropriates funds for a full-time agricultural coordinator at the University of Hawaii at Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR).

With the average age of farmers in Hawaii being over 60 years old, it is important that we develop the next generation of farmers.

One of the main recommendations that came out of the P-20 Agriculture Education Working Group's report to the Legislature in 2019 was to establish and fund an agriculture education coordinator position to create and foster a plan for those interested in the noble profession of agriculture. CTAHR has already proven to be successful in educating and training new farmers through its GoFarm Hawaii program. We must provide agriculture education across the P-20 spectrum to create interest in the industry.

It is important that we find the next generation of farmers that will help the state to meet its goal of increasing food production and reducing our reliance on imports.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 2138.

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
Maui Farm to School Network (Maui F2SN)
Ulupono Initiative
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources - University of Hawai'i at Manoa

LATE

HB-2138

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:36:37 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeannette Gurung	WOCAN	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB 2138 which would establish an agriculture education coordinator position. Given that Hawai'i's farmer population is aging out, investing in agriculture education is one way to help to grow the next generation of farmers.

Agriculture education is one of the key elements identified in Hawai'i's comprehensive farm to school efforts. One cause of the shortage of new farmers in Hawai'i during the past several decades has been the decline in support for agriculture education from state government, including training for agriculture teachers.

To meet the State's goals for increased food security and self-sufficiency, the number of local farms and farmers and the amount of food produced for local markets will need to increase significantly. Agriculture education is key to the development of future farmers and to a society that values and understands the vital role of agriculture and food systems to broader community well-being.

Please support HB 2138 to help grow Hawai'i's agricultural sector and bolster local food security. Mahalo for your consideration!

Jeannette Gurung

Executive Director, Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (WOCAN)

Kailua Kona, HI

HB-2138

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 2:21:36 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joseph Kohn MD	We Are One, Inc. - www.WeAreOne.cc - WAO	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT [HB 2138](#) to help Improve indigenous and sustainable organic agriculture and a living wage for on-the-ground farm workers, or don't support it at all if it increases corporate/industrial agriculture in HI.

People before profit, feed local people first.

www.WeAreOne.cc

February 6, 2024

Subject: Testimony in Support of House Bill 2138, "A Bill for an Act Relating to Agricultural Education."

LATE

To: House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems
State Capitol, Room 432
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Members of the House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems,

I am writing to express my support for Hawaii House Bill 2138, "A Bill for an Act Relating to Agricultural Education." As President of the Lanai Chapter of the Hawaii Farmers Union United (HFUU), I believe this legislation is crucial for addressing the challenges facing our farming community and ensuring a sustainable future for Lanai.

Lanai faces unique challenges and opportunities in agriculture, as recent setbacks have highlighted. House Bill 2138 recognizes the importance of agriculture education in addressing these challenges and lays out a comprehensive framework for supporting agricultural education statewide.

At HFUU Lanai Chapter, we have been actively supporting agriculture education through programs like the HFUU Farm Apprentice Mentoring (FAM) program and advocating for initiatives such as a tool library and a county farmers market.

House Bill 2138 will provide the leadership and resources needed to develop and implement programs that expose students to agriculture education, train teachers, and support students entering agriculture-related careers. This will enhance food security, sustainability, and resilience for Lanai and Hawaii.

I urge you to support House Bill 2138 and advocate for its passage. Investing in agriculture education is investing in our future.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Negus Manna
President, Lanai Chapter
Hawaii Farmers Union United (HFUU)



LATE

Officers

Kaipo Kekona
State President

Anabella Bruch
Vice-President

Maureen Datta
Secretary

Reba Lopez
Treasurer

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, and Members of the House Agriculture & Food Systems Committee,

The Hawaii Farmers Union is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFUU supports HB2138.**

We believe that this bill is essential for the growth and sustainability of Hawaii's agricultural industry. We need to support agricultural education to ensure a skilled and sustained local workforce to perpetuate the agricultural industry.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF

Chapter Presidents

Clarence Baber
Kohala, Hawai'i

Odysseus Yacalis
East Hawai'i

Puna, Hawai'i

Andrea Drayer
Ka'u, Hawai'i

Kona, Hawai'i

Fawn Helekahi-Burns
Hana, Maui

Mason Scharer
Haleakala, Maui

Kaiea Medeiros
Mauna Kahalawai,
Maui

Kaipo Kekona
Lahaina, Maui

Rufina Kaauwai
Molokai

Negus Manna
Lāna'i

India Clark
North Shore, O'ahu

Christian Zuckerman
Wai'anae, O'ahu

Ted Radovich
Waimanalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura
Honolulu, O'ahu

Natalie Urminska
Kauai

HB-2138

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 1:56:39 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kelly anne olayan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB2138

Our keiki are our future farmers, this bill will allow further education for agricultural studies and promote more educated agricultural workers!

HB-2138

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:01:58 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Douglas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB 2138 which would establish an agriculture education coordinator position. Given that Hawai'i's farmer population is aging out, investing in agriculture education is one way to help to grow the next generation of farmers.

Agriculture education is one of the key elements identified in Hawai'i's comprehensive farm to school efforts. One cause of the shortage of new farmers in Hawai'i during the past several decades has been the decline in support for agriculture education from state government, including training for agriculture teachers.

To meet the State's goals for increased food security and self-sufficiency, the number of local farms and farmers and the amount of food produced for local markets will need to increase significantly. Agriculture education is key to the development of future farmers and to a society that values and understands the vital role of agriculture and food systems to broader community well-being.

Please support HB 2138 to help grow Hawai'i's agricultural sector and bolster local food security. Mahalo for your consideration!

HB-2138

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:08:12 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Napua Canales	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB2138 because Hawai'i deserves agricultural resiliency. Please adopt this bill to support the future of local farmers in utilizing the aina's prosperous harvesting conditions. This program will also elevate the competitive standing of UH Manoa, attracting more students who are interested in environmental sustainability.

HB-2138

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:17:32 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Heather Ramiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB 2138 which would establish an agriculture education coordinator position. Given that Hawai'i's farmer population is aging out, investing in agriculture education is one way to help to grow the next generation of farmers.

Agriculture education is one of the key elements identified in Hawai'i's comprehensive farm to school efforts. One cause of the shortage of new farmers in Hawai'i during the past several decades has been the decline in support for agriculture education from state government, including training for agriculture teachers.

To meet the State's goals for increased food security and self-sufficiency, the number of local farms and farmers and the amount of food produced for local markets will need to increase significantly. Agriculture education is key to the development of future farmers and to a society that values and understands the vital role of agriculture and food systems to broader community well-being.

Please support HB 2138 to help grow Hawai'i's agricultural sector and bolster local food security. Mahalo for your consideration!

Heather Ramiro, Kaneohe

HB-2138

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:19:47 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
RoAnn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write to you today in strong support of HB 2138, which seeks to allocate funds for an agriculture education coordinator in Hawai'i. This crucial initiative is not merely an investment in education; it is an investment in the future of our state.

By supporting HB 2138, we are sowing the seeds for the growth of future farmers who will contribute significantly to Hawaii's agricultural landscape. The agriculture education coordinator will play a pivotal role in nurturing a new generation of skilled and knowledgeable individuals dedicated to sustainable farming practices.

Furthermore, this bill will elevate the quality of agriculture programs across the state, ensuring that students receive a well-rounded education that encompasses the latest advancements in the field. A well-coordinated and funded agricultural education system will empower our youth with the skills and knowledge needed to excel in this vital industry.

As we allocate funds for the agriculture education coordinator, we are not just investing in education; we are adding value to our workforce. A well-educated and trained agricultural workforce is essential for the continued growth and prosperity of Hawai'i. This bill recognizes the connection between education and economic development, emphasizing the importance of a skilled workforce to drive innovation and productivity in the agriculture sector.

In conclusion, I urge you to support HB 2138, recognizing its potential to cultivate a future generation of farmers and enhance the quality of agriculture programs in Hawai'i.

Thank you for your attention and dedication to the well-being of Hawai'i's agricultural community.

HB-2138

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:29:34 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marilyn Mick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB 2138 which would establish an agriculture education coordinator position. Given that Hawai'i's farmer population is aging out, investing in agriculture education is one way to help to grow the next generation of farmers.

Agriculture education is one of the key elements identified in Hawai'i's comprehensive farm to school efforts. One cause of the shortage of new farmers in Hawai'i during the past several decades has been the decline in support for agriculture education from state government, including training for agriculture teachers.

To meet the State's goals for increased food security and self-sufficiency, the number of local farms and farmers and the amount of food produced for local markets will need to increase significantly. Agriculture education is key to the development of future farmers and to a society that values and understands the vital role of agriculture and food systems to broader community well-being.

Please support HB 2138 to help grow Hawai'i's agricultural sector and bolster local food security. Mahalo for your consideration!

Marilyn Mick, Honolulu

HB-2138

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:34:14 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joseph Wat	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Agricultural education is essential for all ages. Supporting this bill helps to ensure that the agricultural education that occurs is rigorous, culturally rooted, science based, safe, and connected to standards. Our keiki deserve the best education and our ‘āina deserves the best stewards.

Aloha no,

- Joe

HB-2138

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:35:32 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ken Hartsel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB 2083. Supporting locally sourced food in school meals benefits our local agricultural sector, while providing students with nutritious, culturally appropriate foods. Sadly, progress in Hawai‘i’s goals of sourcing 30% locally grown/produced food in school meals by 2023 has lagged. This bill seeks to incentivize schools to take action to meet the goals of the Aloha+ Challenge.

Leveraging the power of public procurement to increase markets for Hawaii’s farmers and producers is one critical way Hawai‘i can support local producers while decreasing dependency on imports.

Additionally, children will have greater access to more culturally appropriate and nutritious foods, such as kalo, sweet potatoes and others while becoming more connected to where their food comes from. Access to healthier foods will also support better learning outcomes.

Local food has a shorter time between harvest and your table, and it is less likely that the nutrient value has decreased. Food imported from far-away states and countries is often older, has traveled and sits in distribution centers before it gets to your store. This is exacerbated in places like Hawai‘i, where our food is treated and shipped such long distances.

Closer proximity relationships with our food will in turn also reduce carbon emissions related to shipping and packaging waste associated with importation.

Please support this win-win for local food producers and students and pass HB 2083.

Mahalo for your consideration!

HB-2138

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:36:40 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tamara Paltin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

support HB2138 as it grows future farmers and an educated agricultural workforce in Hawai'i

Increases the number of trained agriculture educators.

An Agriculture Education Coordinator can facilitate collaboration between CTAHR and agricultural stakeholders ensuring that academic programs align with industry demands. This will not only produce graduates who are better prepared for the workforce but also contribute to the overall growth and sustainability of the agriculture sector.

HB-2138

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:37:40 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Molly Mamaril	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB 2138 which would establish an agriculture education coordinator position. Given that Hawai'i's farmer population is aging out, investing in agriculture education is one way to help to grow the next generation of farmers.

Agriculture education is one of the key elements identified in Hawai'i's comprehensive farm to school efforts. One cause of the shortage of new farmers in Hawai'i during the past several decades has been the decline in support for agriculture education from state government, including training for agriculture teachers.

To meet the State's goals for increased food security and self-sufficiency, the number of local farms and farmers and the amount of food produced for local markets will need to increase significantly. Agriculture education is key to the development of future farmers and to a society that values and understands the vital role of agriculture and food systems to broader community well-being.

Please support HB 2138 to help grow Hawai'i's agricultural sector and bolster local food security. Mahalo for your consideration!

Molly Mamaril,

Kaimuki, Oahu

HB-2138

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:39:09 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ezgi Green	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB 2138, which would establish an agriculture education coordinator position. Given that Hawai'i's farmer population is aging out, investing in agriculture education is one way to help grow the next generation of farmers.

Agriculture education is one of the key elements identified in Hawai'i's comprehensive farm-to-school efforts. One cause of the shortage of new farmers in Hawai'i during the past several decades has been the state government's decline in support for agriculture education, including training for agriculture teachers.

To meet the State's goals for increased food security and self-sufficiency, the number of local farms and farmers and the amount of food produced for local markets will need to increase significantly. Agriculture education is critical to future farmers' development and a society that values and understands the vital role of agriculture and food systems in broader community well-being.

Please support HB 2138 to help grow Hawai'i's agricultural sector and bolster local food security. Mahalo for your consideration!

Ezgi Green, Waialua

HB-2138

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:48:58 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support HB 2138 which would establish an agriculture education coordinator position. Given that Hawai'i's farmer population is aging out, investing in agriculture education is one way to help to grow the next generation of farmers.

Agriculture education is one of the key elements identified in Hawai'i's comprehensive farm to school efforts. One cause of the shortage of new farmers in Hawai'i during the past several decades has been the decline in support for agriculture education from state government, including training for agriculture teachers.

To meet the State's goals for increased food security and self-sufficiency, the number of local farms and farmers and the amount of food produced for local markets will need to increase significantly. Agriculture education is key to the development of future farmers and to a society that values and understands the vital role of agriculture and food systems to broader community well-being.

Please support HB 2138 to help grow Hawai'i's agricultural sector and bolster local food security. Mahalo for your consideration!

HB-2138

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:51:57 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judith A Mick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha- As Hawaii must move towards food sustainability, we need a agriculture education coordinator to reach out and get our young people involved in farming and healthy food.

Please pass this billl Mahalo, Judy Mick

HB-2138

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:00:01 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jayven Okuda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. This is because with the fact that 80-90% of our food is imported from the continent, we cannot support ourselves without the imports and only 10% of farms here. Hawai'i was once had the ahupua'a system, fully sustaining everyone. With these funds going towards agricultural education positions, we create futures and jobs for mahi'ai and our 'ōpio.

Jayven Gascon Okuda

HB-2138

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:03:06 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Nihipali	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB2138 will help support the continued growth of agriculture in Hawaii.

The state faces a shortage of agricultural workers, posing a challenge to the growth and sustainability of the agriculture sector. Creating an agriculture education coordinator position within the University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) would serve as a driving force for education, innovation, and collaboration.

- Grows future farmers and an educated agricultural workforce in Hawai'i.
- Increased number of trained agriculture educators.
- Increased number and quality of agriculture education programs in P-20 educational settings.
- Increased number of students entering and completing secondary and higher education and training programs in agriculture and food systems.
- An Agriculture Education Coordinator can facilitate collaboration between CTAHR and agricultural stakeholders, ensuring that academic programs align with industry demands. This will not only produce graduates who are better prepared for the workforce but also contribute to the overall growth and sustainability of the agriculture sector.

Please support this bill.

Thank you for your consideration,

Michele Nihipali

54-074 A Kam Hwy.

Hauula, HI 96717

HB-2138

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:46:38 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sydney Campbell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Representatives,

My name is Sydney Campbell and I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 2138 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION. The bill will play an important role in educating the agricultural workforce in Hawai‘i. Specifically, there will be an increase in the number and quality of trained agriculture educator and agriculture education programs in P-20 educational settings. There will also be more opportunities for students to enter and complete secondary and higher education and training programs in agriculture and food systems. An Agriculture Education Coordinator can facilitate collaboration between CTAHR and agricultural stakeholders, ensuring that academic programs align with industry demands. This will not only produce graduates who are better prepared for the workforce but also contribute to the overall growth and sustainability of the agriculture sector.

This issue is important to me as a graduate student at UH studying sustainable food systems. Research at the frontiers of sustainable and resilient food systems indicates that strong local food systems and education programs are essential to address pervasive issues in the food system including over-reliance on imports, barriers to food sovereignty, and lack of disaster-preparedness.

I humbly ask for your **SUPPORT** and pass HB 2138 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION for state funding.

Sincerely,

Sydney Campbell

Honolulu, HI

HB-2138

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:04:35 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
brandi corpuz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support HB2138 to create and pay for a Ag education coordinator position. I would like to add that this position be filled by someone who will support local, edible agriculture that is non-gmo and that uses traditional farming practices, not excessive pesticide use. This should support our local farming community not corporate seed companies or ag companies that ship their food grown here to other places.

Sincerely, Brandi Corpuz

HB-2138

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:04:41 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marlies Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Absolutely agree and support this!

we do need to feed our kids healthy local foods

HB-2138

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:32:22 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB 2138 which would establish an agriculture education coordinator position. Given that Hawai'i's farmer population is aging out, investing in agriculture education is one way to help to grow the next generation of farmers.

Agriculture education is one of the key elements identified in Hawai'i's comprehensive farm to school efforts. One cause of the shortage of new farmers in Hawai'i during the past several decades has been the decline in support for agriculture education from state government, including training for agriculture teachers.

To meet the State's goals for increased food security and self-sufficiency, the number of local farms and farmers and the amount of food produced for local markets will need to increase significantly. Agriculture education is key to the development of future farmers and to a society that values and understands the vital role of agriculture and food systems to broader community well-being.

Please support HB 2138 to help grow Hawai'i's agricultural sector and bolster local food security. Mahalo for your consideration!

MeleLani Llanes, Makakilo

HB-2138

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:35:07 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Hansen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB 2138 which would establish an agriculture education coordinator position. Given that Hawai'i's farmer population is aging out, investing in agriculture education is one way to help to grow the next generation of farmers.

Agriculture education is one of the key elements identified in Hawai'i's comprehensive farm to school efforts. One cause of the shortage of new farmers in Hawai'i during the past several decades has been the decline in support for agriculture education from state government, including training for agriculture teachers.

To meet the State's goals for increased food security and self-sufficiency, the number of local farms and farmers and the amount of food produced for local markets will need to increase significantly. Agriculture education is key to the development of future farmers and to a society that values and understands the vital role of agriculture and food systems to broader community well-being.

Please support HB 2138 to help grow Hawai'i's agricultural sector and bolster local food security. Mahalo for your consideration!

Elizabeth Hansen, Hakakau HI 96710

HB-2138

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:36:25 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peter Beemer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please radify bill HB2138, This bill is a step toward health food for students and teachers. It also supports efforts for Hawaii's self sufficiency. It is also common sense.

HB-2138

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:19:46 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rodger Hansen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill.
Mahalo

Rodger Hansen, Hakalau HI 96710

HB-2138

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:23:49 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Blair	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Establish, fund an agriculture education coordinator position please.

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB 2138 which would establish an agriculture education coordinator position. Given that Hawai'i's farmer population is aging out, investing in agriculture education is one way to help to grow the next generation of farmers.

Agriculture education is one of the key elements identified in Hawai'i's comprehensive farm to school efforts. One cause of the shortage of new farmers in Hawai'i during the past several decades has been the decline in support for agriculture education from state government, including training for agriculture teachers.

To meet the State's goals for increased food security and self-sufficiency, the number of local farms and farmers and the amount of food produced for local markets will need to increase significantly. Agriculture education is key to the development of future farmers and to a society that values and understands the vital role of agriculture and food systems to broader community well-being.

Please support HB 2138 to help grow Hawai'i's agricultural sector and bolster local food security. Mahalo for your consideration!

Robert H. Pahia
Maui, Hawaii

HB-2138

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:05:41 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keke Manera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB 2138 which would establish an agriculture education coordinator position. Given that Hawai'i's farmer population is aging out, investing in agriculture education is one way to help to grow the next generation of farmers.

Agriculture education is one of the key elements identified in Hawai'i's comprehensive farm to school efforts. One cause of the shortage of new farmers in Hawai'i during the past several decades has been the decline in support for agriculture education from state government, including training for agriculture teachers.

To meet the State's goals for increased food security and self-sufficiency, the number of local farms and farmers and the amount of food produced for local markets will need to increase significantly. Agriculture education is key to the development of future farmers and to a society that values and understands the vital role of agriculture and food systems to broader community well-being.

Please support HB 2138 to help grow Hawai'i's agricultural sector and bolster local food security. Mahalo for your consideration!

Keke M.

Pearl City, O'ahu

HB-2138

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:34:59 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carrie Brennan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB 2138 which would establish an agriculture education coordinator position.

To meet the State's goals for increased food security and self-sufficiency, the number of local farms and farmers and the amount of food produced for local markets will need to increase significantly. Agriculture education is key to the development of future farmers.

Please support HB 2138 to help grow Hawai'i's agricultural sector thereby supporting local food security.

Mahalo ,

Carrie Brennan, Kapaa

HB-2138

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:41:15 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diana Bethel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB 2138 which would establish an agriculture education coordinator position. Given that Hawai'i's farmer population is aging out, investing in agriculture education is one way to help to grow the next generation of farmers.

Agriculture education is one of the key elements identified in Hawai'i's comprehensive farm to school efforts. One cause of the shortage of new farmers in Hawai'i during the past several decades has been the decline in support for agriculture education from state government, including training for agriculture teachers.

To meet the State's goals for increased food security and self-sufficiency, the number of local farms and farmers and the amount of food produced for local markets will need to increase significantly. Agriculture education is key to the development of future farmers and to a society that values and understands the vital role of agriculture and food systems to broader community well-being.

Please support HB 2138 to help grow Hawai'i's agricultural sector and bolster local food security. Mahalo for your consideration!

Diana Bethel, Honolulu

HB-2138

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:43:15 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brooke Holderbaum	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: The Honorable Cedric Gates, Chair

The Honorable Kirstin Kahaloa, Vice Chair

Honorable Members of the Hawai‘i State House of Representatives

Fr: Brooke Holderbaum

Date: February 5, 2024

Re: STRONG SUPPORT for HB2138, Relating to Agriculture Education

Meeting: February 7, 2024 at 9:30 am at Hawai‘i State Capitol, House Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, and members of the Hawai‘i State House of Representatives,

I am writing in support of HB 2138 Relating to Agriculture Education. As a Career Technical Education (CTE) educator for almost 2 decades and 24 years of teaching and administrative experience in education, I can say that we are long overdue for increased investments in caring for our ‘āina. Climate change threatens our shipping industry, our sustainability, and our ability to feed our growing population, while increases in the average age of farmers and decreases in common knowledge of growing food threaten our ability to survive independently. The coordinator position has the potential to raise awareness of the importance of agricultural skills, shepherd those interested in pursuing education in agriculture, manage administrative duties that support the learning of students, and foster innovation in the field. While this is a small investment in the future of

food sovereignty in Hawai‘i, it is an important opportunity to move toward decreasing the dependence on overseas shipping for almost all of our agricultural needs.

Mahalo,

Brooke Holderbaum

Makawao, Maui (originally from Kāne‘ohe, O‘ahu)

HB-2138

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:06:11 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patti Cook	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a meaningful way to help improve local food production and food self reliance. MAHALO.

HB-2138

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:32:34 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karyn Kanekoa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB2138 Agriculture Education Coordination Position.

HB-2138

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 6:21:21 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of [HB 2138](#). Thank you.

HB-2138

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 6:52:46 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Barker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to respectfully ask that you support HB 2138 which would establish an agriculture education coordinator position. Given that Hawai‘i’s farmer population is aging out, investing in agriculture education is one way to help to grow the next generation of farmers.

To meet the State's goals for increased food security and self-sufficiency, the number of local farms and farmers and the amount of food produced for local markets will need to increase significantly. Agriculture education is key to the development of future farmers and to a society that values and understands the vital role of agriculture and food systems to broader community well-being.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

HB-2138

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:43:10 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Edward Johnston	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am confident the CTAHR will be the perfect Agriculture Education Coordinator to provide food security based in part on cultural heritage models. This is essential work for today's Hawai'i.

HB-2138

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:02:27 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl burghardt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SUPPORT bill HB 2138 for an **Agriculture Education Coordinator Position.**

This is another win/win for all of us bill. Agriculture education is one of the key elements identified in Hawai‘i’s comprehensive farm to school efforts. One cause of the shortage of new farmers in Hawai‘i during the past several decades has been the decline in support for agriculture education from state government, including training for agriculture teachers.

We are islands in the middle of the Pacific ocean with Native Hawaiian cultural and traditional practioners who understand the land and paths to growing who can benefit and also teach/train. There are folks within the Native Hawaiian communities and others who are looking at new paths to helping us be more sustainable.

Agriculture education relevant to our islands will assist with our issues and maybe provide answers to land use preventing more fires, bug infestations and how to use water for our communities in a pono way.

This bill and its‘ proposal for an Agricultural Education Coordinator is a positive start to our island sustainability being a policy of the state.

HB-2138

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:22:59 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natasha Woodward	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a member of the community, I see how little food is locally produced and how unsustainable this system is for future generations. By investing in agricultural education, Hawaii can come to a place of producing enough food locally to feed the population. Please support this for future generations.

HB-2138

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:43:05 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marian Huff	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Hawaii State Legislators:

HB2138 allocates funds to CTAHR to establish an AG ED coordinator, This measure is an investment in the future of Hawaii's agriculture and economy. Having been actively engaged in the Hawaii Farm to School movement for over 14 years and having worked with CTAHR, I know that passage of this bill is a huge step towards expanding local food production for our state as well as increasing educational opportunities in ag and natural resources for our young people.

Mahalo Nui

Marian Huff

HB-2138

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:03:25 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jotis Russell-Christian	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB 2138 which would establish an agriculture education coordinator position. Given that Hawai'i's farmer population is aging out, investing in agriculture education is one way to help to grow the next generation of farmers.

Agriculture education is one of the key elements identified in Hawai'i's comprehensive farm to school efforts. One cause of the shortage of new farmers in Hawai'i during the past several decades has been the decline in support for agriculture education from state government, including training for agriculture teachers.

To meet the State's goals for increased food security and self-sufficiency, the number of local farms and farmers and the amount of food produced for local markets will need to increase significantly. Agriculture education is key to the development of future farmers and to a society that values and understands the vital role of agriculture and food systems to broader community well-being.

Please support HB 2138 to help grow Hawai'i's agricultural sector and bolster local food security. Mahalo for your consideration!

Jotis Russell-Christian, Hilo, Hawai'i

Honorable Members of the House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems,

I am writing to express my wholehearted support for the Agriculture Education Coordinator (HB2138) currently under consideration. As an advocate for sustainable agriculture and a firm believer in the transformative power of education, I am convinced that this bill represents a crucial step towards fostering a more vibrant and resilient agricultural sector in Hawai'i.

Agriculture is the foundation of our food system. Yet, as our society continues to evolve, so too must our approach to agriculture. We face complex challenges such as climate change, soil degradation, and food insecurity, which require innovative solutions and a skilled workforce to implement them.

This bill seeks to address these challenges by establishing a dedicated Agriculture Education Coordinator position within our state's educational system. By doing so, it will ensure that future generations have access to comprehensive agricultural education that is both relevant and up-to-date. This includes not only traditional farming techniques but also emerging practices such as agroecology, permaculture, and sustainable livestock management.

Moreover, the Agriculture Education Coordinator will play a vital role in bridging the gap between the classroom and the farm. By facilitating partnerships with local farmers, agricultural organizations, and businesses, they will create valuable hands-on learning opportunities for students. This practical experience will not only enhance their understanding of agriculture but also prepare them for rewarding careers in the field.

Furthermore, investing in agricultural education is not just about securing our future food supply; it's also about empowering our communities and fostering economic development. By equipping students with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in agriculture, we are investing in the prosperity of Hawai'i communities and creating opportunities for growth and innovation.

In conclusion, I urge you to support the Agriculture Education Coordinator Legislative Bill. By doing so, we can ensure that agriculture remains a vibrant and thriving industry in our state for generations to come. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jean Butel".

Jean Butel

jeanniebutel@aol.com

HB-2138

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:12:43 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo. I'm born and raised in the Hawaiian Kingdom. I live in Mō'ili'ili. I'm writing in STRONG SUPPORT HB2138.

This "state" faces a shortage of agricultural workers, posing a challenge to the growth and sustainability of the agriculture sector. Creating an agriculture education coordinator position within the University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) would serve as a driving force for education, innovation, and collaboration.

This measure is an investment in the future of Hawai'i's agriculture and economy.

me ke aloha 'āina,
Nanea Lo

HB-2138

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:23:56 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lela Kalama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB 2138 which would establish an agriculture education coordinator position. Given that Hawai'i's farmer population is aging out, investing in agriculture education is one way to help to grow the next generation of farmers.

Agriculture education is one of the key elements identified in Hawai'i's comprehensive farm to school efforts. One cause of the shortage of new farmers in Hawai'i during the past several decades has been the decline in support for agriculture education from state government, including training for agriculture teachers.

To meet the State's goals for increased food security and self-sufficiency, the number of local farms and farmers and the amount of food produced for local markets will need to increase significantly. Agriculture education is key to the development of future farmers and to a society that values and understands the vital role of agriculture and food systems to broader community well-being.

Please support HB 2138 to help grow Hawai'i's agricultural sector and bolster local food security. Mahalo for your consideration!

Lela Kalama, Keaau, HI

HB-2138

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:27:33 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sally Thrasher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB 2138 which would establish an agriculture education coordinator position. Given that Hawai‘i’s farmer population is aging out, investing in agriculture education is one way to help to grow the next generation of farmers.

Agriculture education is one of the key elements identified in Hawai‘i’s comprehensive farm to school efforts. One cause of the shortage of new farmers in Hawai‘i during the past several decades has been the decline in support for agriculture education from state government, including training for agriculture teachers.

To meet the State's goals for increased food security and self-sufficiency, the number of local farms and farmers and the amount of food produced for local markets will need to increase significantly. Agriculture education is key to the development of future farmers and to a society that values and understands the vital role of agriculture and food systems to broader community well-being.

Please support HB 2138 to help grow Hawai‘i’s agricultural sector and bolster local food security. Mahalo for your consideration!

HB-2138

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:29:52 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sven Sorge	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB 2138 which would establish an agriculture education coordinator position. Given that Hawai‘i’s farmer population is aging out, investing in agriculture education is one way to help to grow the next generation of farmers.

Agriculture education is one of the key elements identified in Hawai‘i’s comprehensive farm to school efforts. One cause of the shortage of new farmers in Hawai‘i during the past several decades has been the decline in support for agriculture education from state government, including training for agriculture teachers.

To meet the State's goals for increased food security and self-sufficiency, the number of local farms and farmers and the amount of food produced for local markets will need to increase significantly. Agriculture education is key to the development of future farmers and to a society that values and understands the vital role of agriculture and food systems to broader community well-being.

Please support HB 2138 to help grow Hawai‘i’s agricultural sector and bolster local food security. Mahalo for your consideration!

HB-2138

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:54:16 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Kuzmier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB 2138 which would establish an agriculture education coordinator position. Given that Hawai'i's farmer population is aging out, investing in agriculture education is one way to help to grow the next generation of farmers.

Agriculture education is one of the key elements identified in Hawai'i's comprehensive farm to school efforts. One cause of the shortage of new farmers in Hawai'i during the past several decades has been the decline in support for agriculture education from state government, including training for agriculture teachers.

To meet the State's goals for increased food security and self-sufficiency, the number of local farms and farmers and the amount of food produced for local markets will need to increase significantly. Agriculture education is key to the development of future farmers and to a society that values and understands the vital role of agriculture and food systems to broader community well-being.

Please support HB 2138 to help grow Hawai'i's agricultural sector and bolster local food security. Mahalo for your consideration!

HB-2138

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:16:46 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Winternitz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems,

As a life-long Hawaii resident who strongly supports local farmers and agricultural sustainability, I urge you to support HB2138. The state faces a shortage of agricultural workers, posing a challenge to the growth and sustainability of the agriculture sector. Creating an agriculture education coordinator position within the University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) would serve as a driving force for education, innovation, and collaboration.

Please SUPPORT HB2138, which allocates funds to CTAHR to establish an agriculture education coordinator. This measure is an investment in the future of Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Elizabeth Winternitz

LATE

HB-2138

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:36:18 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Arika Hultquist	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Implementation of positions and resources like this need to happen in order for our children to be healthy and thrive in our communities. There are a lot of people who are not educated in healthy eating and self care. It is proven for children to educate their families from the new leadership that this would create. Let's not let the big 10 define us. We shouldn't be making poor eating choices and then in turn spending more money for medical care from eating the same food they are selling that is making us sick.

LATE

HB-2138

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:48:01 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danielle Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB 3302 which would create an income tax credit to alleviate the high costs of production for farmers, ranchers, and fishers and incentivize growth in the agricultural sector in the State.

This bill would create tax credits for farmers, ranchers, and fishers, helping to offset the high costs of production that create barriers to making farming/food production economically viable in Hawai'i. It is also important to note that this bill defines "eligible farmer" as a taxpayer that provides proof of at least two-thirds of excess federal gross income from farming or ranching. Therefore this bill specifically targets food producers whose livelihood is primarily earned from local food production, targeting support where it can be most impactful.

Support for our local food producers will allow them to invest more in their businesses and will provide much needed support to grow and sustain our agriculture sector. Please support SB 3302.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Danielle, Waialua

LATE

HB-2138

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:48:18 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Minda Goodman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support 2138 HB. Please count me.

Minda Goodman

LATE

HB-2138

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 5:06:42 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Jones	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice-Chair Kahaloe, and Honorable Committee Members:

I respectfully present this testimony to SUPPORT HB 2138, which provides funds to the University of Hawaii’s College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) for an agriculture education coordinator position. The CTAHR is a valuable repository of information for Hawai`i’s existing and future farmers, but if we are to decrease the increasing average age of Hawai`i’s farmers, we need to begin educating our future farmers in starting ideally at the primary school age level.

There appears to be a critical need identified for an Agriculture Education Coordinator, who could facilitate/arrange for: (1) Exposing students to agriculture education at all grade 9 levels in public, charter, and independent schools; (2) Public school students entering and completing the career and technical education agriculture, food innovation, and natural resources career pathway; (3) Students entering and completing higher education programs, apprenticeships, internships, and work-based learning programs in agriculture and food systems; (4) Teachers trained in agriculture and food systems education; and (5) Involvement of local food producers and other food systems professionals.

For these key reasons and in the interest of increasing the number of Hawai`i-based farmers and improving Hawai`i’s food security, we urge your Committee to please pass HB2138 and allow it to move forward during this Session.

Mahalo for this opportunity to present this testimony supporting HB2138.

Nancy A. Jones

PO Box 1462, Wai`anae, HI 96792 / Email: nancyhydroalt@gmail.com

LATE

HB-2138

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 5:25:03 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zeb Jones	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice-Chair Kahaloa, and Honorable Committee Members:

I present this testimony SUPPORTING HB 2138, which would provide funds to the University of Hawaii’s College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) for an agriculture education coordinator position. The CTAHR is a valuable repository of information for Hawai`i’s existing and future farmers, but if we are to decrease the increasing average age of Hawai`i’s farmers, we need to begin educating our future farmers in starting ideally at the primary school age level.

A critical need has been identified for an Agriculture Education Coordinator, who could facilitate/arrange for: (1) Exposing students to agriculture education at all grade 9 levels in public, charter, and independent schools; (2) Public school students entering and completing the career and technical education agriculture, food innovation, and natural resources career pathway; (3) Students entering and completing higher education programs, apprenticeships, internships, and work-based learning programs in agriculture and food systems; (4) Teachers trained in agriculture and food systems education; and (5) Involvement of local food producers and other food systems professionals.

For all of the above reasons and in the interest of increasing the number of Hawai`i-based farmers and improving Hawai`i’s food security, we urge your Committee to please pass HB2138 and allow it to move forward during this Session. Mahalo for this opportunity to present this testimony supporting HB2138.

Zebuel “Zeb” C. Jones

PO Box 1462, Wai`anae, HI 96792 / Email: zebbe3442@gmail.com

LATE

HB-2138

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 6:44:35 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cortney Midla	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support HB2138 to provide funds for the CTAHR agriculture education coordinator position. As a public health nurse, I understand the importance of food and health.

Mahalo,

Cortney Midla

LATE

HB-2138

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:23:25 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marissa Baptista	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Native Hawaiian working mother of 3 children with my husband, a resident of Aliapa'akai (Salt Lake), and a registered voter, I support HB 2138 RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

LATE

HB-2138

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:15:48 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Troy Schacht	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need good wisdom to spread.

LATE

HB-2138

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 1:01:08 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janet L Pappas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear AGR Committee,

I strongly support this bill to appropriate funds to establish an agricultural education coordinator position. Please support bill 2138.

Mahalo,

Jan Pappas

LATE

HB-2138

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 1:43:35 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Galacgac	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB 2138 which would establish an agriculture education coordinator position. Invest in the future farmers who will grow up in Hawai'i and lead us in building our food systems.

Agriculture education is key to the development of future farmers and to a society that values and understands the vital role of agriculture and food systems to broader community well-being. What is taught in schools shape the trajectory of the possibilities of pathways to develop skills and also contribute to Hawai'i in life giving ways.

Support HB 2138 to help grow Hawai'i's agricultural sector and bolster local food security.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Ashley Galacgac, Honolulu, 96816



LATE

HIPHI Board

Misty Pacheco, DrPH
Chair
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

Titiimaea Ta'ase, JD
Secretary
State of Hawai'i, Deputy Public
Defender

Carissa Holley, MEd
Treasurer
Hale Makua Health Services

Keshia Adolpho, LCSW
Na'au Healing Center

Debbie Erskine
ARCH-MEPS Consulting LLC, Owner

Camonia Graham - Tutt, PhD
University of Hawai'i - West O'ahu

Jennifer José Lo, MD
Hawai'i Health Partners

May Okihiro, MD, MS
John A. Burns School of Medicine,
Department of Pediatrics

Kathleen Roche, MS, RN, CENP
Kaiser Permanente

Dina Shek, JD
Medical-Legal Partnership
For Children in Hawai'i

Garret Sugai
HMSA

JoAnn Tsark, MPH
John A. Burns School of Medicine,
Native Hawaiian Research Office

HIPHI Initiatives

Coalition for a
Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

Community-Based Research &
Evaluation

Community Health
Worker Initiatives

COVID-19 Response

Environmental Health

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol-Free
Coalitions

Hawai'i Farm to School Hui

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Collective/Healthy Aging &
Community Living

Public Health Workforce

Date: February 7, 2024

To: Representative Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair
Representative Kirstin Kahaloa, Vice Chair

Re: Strong Support for HB 2138 Relating to Education

Hrg: Wednesday, February 7, 2024, at 9:00 AM, Conf Rm 325

Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) works to advance policy and systems change to reduce disparities and improve the health of Hawai'i residents. HIPHI is home to and testifies here on behalf of The Hawai'i Farm to School Hui, which collectively represents over 60 organizations from across the islands.

Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) appreciates the opportunity to provide **Strong Support** for **HB2138**, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawai'i for the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (UH CTAHR) to establish one full-time agriculture education coordinator position.

Following the passage of Senate Resolution 80 in 2015, the Hawai'i Farm to School Hui worked with UH CTAHR to convene the P-20 Agriculture Education Working Group to develop a coordinated framework of support for preschool through post-secondary (P-20) agriculture education in Hawai'i.

As outlined in the group's [final report to the 2019 legislature \(DC149\)](#) and provided for in HB2138, the Agriculture Education Coordinator position within UH CTAHR is essential to advance a coordinated statewide approach to regenerating Hawai'i's community food systems through regular and equitable access to agriculture and food systems education for all students.

This bill addresses the pressing need for immediate and sustained investment by the state in agriculture and food systems education to advance Hawaii's food security and food self-sufficiency through the development of agriculture educators and future farmers.

Mahalo for considering this measure and for the opportunity to testify in support of HB2138.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dennis Chase', is written over a faint, larger signature.

Dennis Chase
Hawai'i Farm to School Hui Program Manager
Hawai'i Public Health Institute