



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## ‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

### Legislative Testimony

#### Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems  
Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.

By

Parwinder Grewal, Dean  
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience

and

Vassilis Syrmos, PhD  
Interim Provost  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

#### HB 1952 HD1 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee:

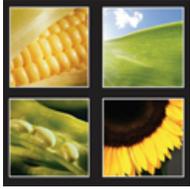
Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on HB 1952 HD1. This measure authorizes the issuance of GO bonds and appropriates funds for capital improvements for the University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience's (CTAHR) Agricultural Research and Extension Station (CARES) on Kaua'i.

The Kaua'i CARES center develops research-based solutions to pest, disease, and climate adaptation challenges in the production of coffee, cacao, orchids, vegetables, forages, and goats, and is the primary location of invasive species research and coordination, seed production, Native Hawaiian kalo collection, and delivery of multi-language training in pest and disease management, soil fertility, pesticide education, and food safety on the island.

However, many of the station's facilities are too old and do not comply with the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) and environmental safety requirements. It is critical to meet ADA and environmental compliance, construct new laboratory and field facilities to support existing projects, fencing, farm manager cottages, and expand new research on sheep and goat production. The urgent need for a certified kitchen will support nutritional education, culturally-relevant recipe innovation, new product development, and address food and nutritional insecurity challenges.

CTAHR is currently recruiting a new livestock and 4-H agent, and seeking a new community coordinator to help build the CARES center as a hub for collaborative innovation and community prosperity. The appropriation for the capital improvement in HB 1952 HD1 will support statewide community assets.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



# HAWAII CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

HB1952 HD1 – In Support  
Relating to Agriculture

House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026  
Time: 9:30 AM  
Place: Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association (HCIA) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony **in support of HB1952, HD1** which authorizes the issuance of GO bonds and appropriates funds for capital improvements for the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience's Agricultural Research and Extension Station on Kauai.

The Kauai Agricultural Research and Extension Station plays a vital role in supporting the island's farmers, ranchers, and communities. It provides research-based solutions to pests, diseases, and climate-related challenges. Yet despite its importance, many of the station's facilities are outdated and deteriorating. These limitations restrict the station's ability to serve the public effectively and equitably, and they hinder the delivery of essential education and research services.

Authorizing general obligation bonds for these capital improvements will support local agriculture, invasive species management, and workforce development, which contributes to the long-term sustainability of Kauai and the State.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in support.

*The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association is a Hawaii-based non-profit organization that promotes modern agriculture to help farmers and communities succeed. Through education, collaboration, and advocacy, we work to ensure a safe and sustainable food supply, support responsible farming practices, and build a healthy economy.*



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

February 18, 2026

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

**TESTIMONY ON HB 1952, HD1**  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference  
9:30 AM

Aloha Chair Chun, Vice-Chair Kusch, 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 1952, HD1**, which authorizes the issuance of GO bonds and appropriates funds for capital improvements for the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience's Agricultural Research and Extension Station on Kaua'i.

The CTAHR Agricultural Research and Extension Station (CARES) on Kaua'i provides essential support to farmers, ranchers, and agricultural communities on the island through applied research, education, and extension services. These services address a wide range of needs, including pest and disease management, invasive species response, soil health, climate adaptation, and food safety.

Many of the Kaua'i CARES existing facilities are outdated and no longer adequately support current programs, safety requirements, or accessibility standards. HB 1952, HD1 addresses these deficiencies by authorizing capital improvements that will modernize laboratories and research spaces, correct environmental and ADA compliance issues, and provide appropriate facilities to support education and outreach activities.

These improvements will allow CTAHR faculty and extension staff to better serve producers, expand training opportunities, and support research that is directly relevant to Kaua'i and Hawai'i's agricultural sector. Modern, functional facilities are necessary to maintain effective extension services and ensure that research and education programs remain responsive to on-the-ground agricultural needs.

Investing in the Kaua'i Agricultural Research and Extension Station strengthens local agricultural capacity, supports farmers and ranchers, and helps ensure that CTAHR can continue to provide timely, practical assistance to the agricultural community.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



**Kalepa Koalition**

5868 Kini Place  
Kapaa, Hawaii 96746  
Phone/Fax: 808-639-0152

**LATE**

February 17, 2019

TO: **Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems**  
Rep. Cory M. Chun, Chair  
Rep. Matthias Kusch, Vice Chair

RE: **Testimony on HB1952, HD 1, Relating to Kauai Agricultural Research and Extension Station**  
**Wednesday, February 18, 2026, Video Conference, Room 325**

Chairperson Chun and Members of the Committee:

We **strongly support HB769, HD1**, authorizing capital improvements at the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience Agricultural Research and Extension Station on Kauai. The Kalepa Koalition is a Hawaii agricultural cooperative of the farmers and ranchers who hold long-term licenses on 6,500 acres of State land behind Kalepa Ridge on Kauai and under the administration of ADC. The area is immediately adjacent to the ag station on Wailua Reservoir.

The Kaua'i research and extension station provides important support to local farmers and ranchers through applied research, education and extension services. These services help address issues such as pests, disease, soil health and climate impacts—all of which are of direct concern to our members.

Many of the station's facilities are outdated and need improvements to meet current safety, accessibility, and program needs. Investing in modern facilities will help extension staff and researchers better serve the agricultural community and continue providing practical assistance to producers on Kauai.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leslie P. Milnes".

Leslie P. Milnes, President  
Kalepa Koalition

**HB-1952-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 6:08:50 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support

1952 HB RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

**LATE**

**HB-1952-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 4:36:42 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Randy Cabral	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support

**LATE**

**HB-1952-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 8:01:58 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Moniz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB 1952, HD1 – KAUA‘I AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION STATION IMPROVEMENTS

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS  
February 18, 2026

Please support HB 1952, which authorizes capital improvements at the University of Hawai‘i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience Agricultural Research and Extension Station on Kaua‘i.

The Kaua‘i research and extension station provides important support to local farmers and ranchers through applied research, education, and extension services. These services help address issues such as pests, disease, soil health, and climate impacts.