

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

WILLIAM G. KUNSTMAN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
KA 'OIHANA PONO LIMAHANA

March 18, 2026

To: The Honorable Cory M. Chun, Chair
The Honorable Matthias Kusch, Vice Chair and
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

Date: Friday, March 18, 2026
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 325, State Capitol

From: Jade T. Butay, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

Re: S.B. 2320 S.D.1 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

The **DLIR supports** this measure provided it does not conflict with the priorities identified in the Governor's Executive Supplemental Budget request. DLIR will defer to the University of Hawaii (UH) as the lead agency on internal implementation matters and bill language should the measure continue through the legislative process.

The department notes growing student interest in agricultural careers and hopes this measure will provide the catalyst to expand agricultural science and technology education at both college and high school levels.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important matter.

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program
Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.
TDD/TTY Dial 711 then ask for (808) 586-8842.



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 & Food Systems
Wednesday, March 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

SB 2320 SD1 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on SB 2320 SD1 relating to Agriculture which establishes the Kuleana AgTech Pathways Program to create career pipelines in the fields of agriculture and agricultural technology. Requires the University of Hawai'i (UH) to collaborate with the Department of Education (DOE), Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB), Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC), Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR), and appropriate community organizations to develop and administer the program. Require reports to the Legislature and appropriates funds.

In 2024, University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience (CTAHR) leadership and faculty engaged in college-wide strategic planning to advance Hawai'i's agriculture, build local self-sufficiency, boosting selective exports of value-added products, preparing the agricultural workforce, improving ecosystem health, and promoting community prosperity and wellbeing. One of the priority focus areas for CTAHR was workforce development to attract new generations to agriculture through innovative education, training, and support programs that create a formal pipeline that connects Hawai'i's high school and community college students to CTAHR and ultimately to the local agricultural workforce. CTAHR has collaborated with DOE about its efforts involving early college credits through the CTAHR Summer Research Institute and specific introductory courses such as Introduction to Natural Resources and Environment (NREM 192) and Agriculture, Environment and Society (TPSS 200). A recent focus with workforce readiness is CTAHR's 3-year degree which will involve learning by doing through practical, hands-on-training and creating experiential learning opportunities connecting students with producers at its Waimānalo, Kapa'a, Kula, Waimea, and Kona CARES centers as regional hubs in every county. CTAHR is also collaborating with DOE on professional development for educators and to create online micro credentials to keep Ag-educators updated on new technologies; and developing

programs for farm managers and agricultural professions. CTAHR has the instructional expertise in GIS and remote sensing, drone operations and other AI technology, and agricultural engineering for best management practices and reduction of costs of production.

CTAHR supports the State's food security and economic diversification goals and is committed to its continuous collaboration with DOE, DAB, ADC, DLIR, UH School of Hawaiian Knowledge and other community organizations with assisting students and agricultural entrepreneurs learn, thrive, and be culturally informed. The appropriation in SB 2320 SD1 will support statewide community assets.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson
Board of Agriculture & Biosecurity

DEAN M. MATSUKAWA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & BIOSECURITY
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI A KIA'I MEAOLA
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9560 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND BIOSECURITY**

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2026
9:30 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 325 & VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2320, SD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testify on Senate Bill No. 2320, SD1 relating to agriculture. This measure establishes the Kuleana AgTech Pathways Pilot Program to create career pipelines in the fields of agriculture and agricultural technology; requires the University of Hawaii to collaborate with the Department of Education, Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (Department), Agribusiness Development Corporation, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, and appropriate community organizations to develop and administer the program; requires reports to the Legislature; appropriates funds; and is effective 7/1/2050. The Department supports this measure.

The Department believes that any measure that creates clear pathways into careers in agriculture and agriculture technology are critical to ensuring food security and biosecurity for the State.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 03/18/2026

Time: 09:30 AM

Location: 325 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: AGR

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB2320, SD1, RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes the Kuleana AgTech Pathways Program to create career pipelines in the fields of agriculture and agricultural technology. Requires the University of Hawaii to collaborate with the Department of Education, Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity, Agribusiness Development Corporation, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, and appropriate community organizations to develop and administer the program. Requires reports to the Legislature. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) offers comments on SB 2320 SD 1, which establishes a Kuleana Agtech Pathways Program designed to cultivate a skilled, culturally grounded, and resilient agricultural workforce for Hawai'i.

The Department recognizes the need to strengthen the pipeline to the agriculture workforce to support Hawai'i's goal to be self-sustaining and understands the value of integrating Native Hawaiian agriculture, regenerative practices, aquaculture, agroforestry, and entrepreneurship to foster a workforce that is both technically proficient and deeply connected to Hawai'i's culture. The Department remains committed to working with the University of Hawai'i (UH); the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity; the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism and its Agribusiness Development Corporation; the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations; and community stakeholder groups to design work-based learning opportunities in authentic workplace settings and to ensure the curriculum and instruction delivered in the Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources career pathway is aligned with current and emerging industry standards and practices.

The components of the Kuleana Agtech Pathways Program provided in Section 2(c) aligns with the Department's efforts to prepare students for the current and future agriculture workforce, including instruction in agricultural technology (agtech), professional development for educators, and student internship opportunities. Partnering with UH to offer high school students dual credit courses and certificate programs in agriculture and agtech and to establish agtech regional hubs to provide students with hands-on, community-based educational activities will advance student learning and promote the desired pipeline to workforce.

The Department defers to the University of Hawai'i regarding the establishment and implementation of the Kuleana Agtech Pathways Program outlined in Section 2.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure and for your continued support in the Department's workforce development efforts.



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2320 SD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

Hawai'i State Capitol

March 18, 2026

9:30 AM

Lumi 325

Aloha e Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS SB2320 SD1**, which establishes the Kuleana AgTech Pathways Program in the University of Hawai'i system to strengthen Hawai'i's agriculture workforce through culturally grounded, island-based career pathways that begin in high school and continue into post-secondary education and employment.

The provisions of **SB2320 SD1** are consistent with OHA's prior work recognizing that cultivating new farmers requires sustained, mentored pathways rather than short-term exposure. The Taro Security and Purity Task Force's 2010 report, prepared with community input statewide and supported by OHA, emphasized that "a taro farmer is not created in a single semester or class," and encouraged linked classroom and field opportunities that allow learners to carry credits across programs and build a full track of study.¹ The Task Force further recommended expanding agricultural and cultural apprenticeships and mentorships that place learners with experienced farmers for meaningful durations, noting that short-term apprenticeships can be inefficient for farmers because of the time and attention required to train participants.²

This measure's dual-credit structure to allow early access to resources by high school students, internship/apprenticeship opportunities, and high school career and technical education components directly align with these recommendations and provide a framework to normalize long-term mentorship and practice-based learning within public education systems. The Task Force Report also called for developing a pipeline of youth

¹ Taro Security and Purity Task Force, *E ola hou ke kalo; ho'i hou ka 'āina lē'ia: 2010 Legislative Report* (Dec. 29, 2009), at 62.

² Id. and n.101

education programs, scholarships, internships, and apprenticeships to “grow” new farmers within local communities, and for establishing career or study tracks in Hawaiian agriculture within the university system.³ This measure advances that infrastructure by starting early, reducing barriers, and connecting students to real farm settings and credentialed pathways.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. For these reasons, OHA respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS SB2320 SD1**.

³ Taro Security and Purity Task Force, *2010 Legislative Report*, at 48.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



WENDY GADY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
HUI HO'OU LU AINA MAHIAI

TESTIMONY OF WENDY L. GADY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS
March 18, 2026
9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

SENATE BILL NO. 2320, SD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

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

The Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) supports S.B. 2320, SD1, which establishes the Kuleana AgTech Pathways Program to create clear, supported career pipelines in agriculture and agricultural technology. The bill appropriately directs the **University of Hawai'i** to collaborate closely with the **Hawai'i State Department of Education**, the **Hawai'i Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity**, ADC, the **Hawai'i Department of Labor and Industrial Relations**, and appropriate community-based organizations to develop and administer the program, with annual reporting to the Legislature. ADC strongly supports this collaborative structure and believes that sustained partnership among these institutions—including coordination with the **University of Hawai'i Board of Regents**—will be essential to ensuring that the program achieves meaningful workforce outcomes.

Strong and sustained collaboration among these entities is essential to the success of this initiative. No single institution can independently build an effective

agricultural workforce system. The University of Hawai'i provides research capacity, technical expertise, and credentialing pathways; the Department of Education connects secondary students to early exposure and career awareness; the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity ensures alignment with regulatory, plant health, and industry standards; ADC provides direct connection to agricultural lands, infrastructure, and agribusiness operators; the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations aligns workforce development funding, labor market data, and apprenticeship systems; and community organizations ensure culturally grounded outreach, mentorship, and support services that increase student retention and participation. Coordinated governance and shared accountability across these partners—supported by leadership engagement from the University of Hawai'i system and its Board of Regents—will be critical to building durable pathways that link education, workforce development, and industry demand.

Hawai'i's ability to increase food production, strengthen climate resilience, and modernize agriculture depends on building a workforce pipeline that is visible, attainable, and aligned with real jobs—ranging from production agriculture and equipment operations to data-enabled irrigation, controlled environment agriculture, food processing, and ag-focused entrepreneurship. S.B. 2320, SD1, is well structured because it is collaborative by design and emphasizes supported pathways and credentialing—features consistently associated with durable workforce outcomes in other states.

Two comparable models demonstrate what sustained, structured pathways can produce:

Connecticut's Agricultural Science and Technology Education (ASTE) model—tracked through a required five-year graduate follow-up—shows strong workforce and postsecondary outcomes. In the Class of 2019 follow-up report

submitted to the Connecticut State Board of Education, 97% of graduates were employed, with 32% working full-time in an agriculture-related field, and 11% serving in the armed forces. The same report found 91% obtained a postsecondary certificate, 60% earned a four-year degree, and 10% of graduates owned a business, collectively employing 38 individuals. The report also quantified hands-on, work-based learning impacts through Supervised Agricultural Experience projects, including student-generated income and documented community service and economic activity.

California's AgTech Alliance provides a relevant example of a statewide, hub-based approach to aligning innovation, workforce development, and industry needs. The Alliance operates a statewide network of nine regional innovation hubs to accelerate technology adoption while building training pathways for students, farmworkers, and career changers. Its structure emphasizes field testing, startup support, and direct industry engagement to translate research into real-world farm applications. The California AgTech Alliance has placed more than 1,500 workers in long-term AgTech careers using robotics, drones, and precision agriculture technologies, attracted significant private investment, and launched more than 200 startups.

Hawai'i is well positioned to apply these lessons in a way that reflects local priorities: strengthening local food production, expanding ag-related career opportunities for residents statewide, improving farm viability through appropriate technology adoption, and supporting community resilience through a more modern and connected agricultural economy. S.B. 2320, SD1's multi-agency design reflects the same elements that have produced results elsewhere: structured pathways, clearly defined institutional roles, cross-agency alignment, and accountability through annual reporting.

ADC strongly supports establishing a formal coordination framework among the University of Hawai'i, the Department of Education, the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity, ADC, the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, and community partners to ensure curriculum alignment, shared performance metrics, employer engagement, and integration with registered apprenticeships and workforce funding streams. ADC particularly welcomes close collaboration with the University of Hawai'i system—including guidance from the Board of Regents—to ensure that academic programs, certificates, and applied research initiatives are aligned with the workforce needs of Hawai'i's agricultural and AgTech industries. This coordinated approach will prevent duplication, streamline implementation, and ensure that training programs directly match industry demand.

ADC commits to working collaboratively with partner agencies and the University of Hawai'i to help shape curriculum that directly serves the needs of Hawai'i's agribusiness and AgTech sectors. In partnership with the Department of Education and the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity, ADC will help identify real-world industry competencies that can be incorporated into career pathway programs, including training in land management, irrigation systems, food manufacturing, logistics, regulatory compliance, and applied agricultural technologies.

Equally important, ADC supports building meaningful, paid internships and registered apprenticeship opportunities that connect students with farms, food manufacturers, and AgTech employers across the State. Working with the University of Hawai'i, DOE, and industry partners, these work-based learning opportunities can provide hands-on training and direct exposure to career opportunities within Hawai'i's agricultural economy. These experiences are critical to keeping Hawai'i students in Hawai'i by providing clear pathways to local

careers, reducing outmigration, and strengthening the agricultural workforce necessary to meet Hawai'i's food production and resilience goals.

For these reasons, ADC supports S.B. 2320, SD1, and appreciates the Legislature's leadership in advancing a collaborative, cross-agency framework that can build durable, locally rooted pathways into agriculture and AgTech careers for Hawai'i's future.

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



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

March 18, 2026

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

TESTIMONY ON SB 2320, SD1
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 SB 2320, SD1, which establishes the Kuleana AgTech Pathways Program within the University of Hawai'i to expand agricultural science and technology career pathways across the State.

Hawai'i's agricultural industry faces ongoing workforce shortages and an aging farmer population. Developing clear and structured pathways for students to enter agricultural careers is essential to ensuring the long-term viability of local food production and biosecurity efforts. Strengthening coordination between public schools, the University of Hawai'i system, and industry partners will help build a skilled workforce prepared for the evolving needs of modern agriculture.

Agriculture today requires knowledge of technology, resource management, business planning, and environmental stewardship. Providing students with hands-on training, internship opportunities, dual-credit pathways, and exposure to emerging agricultural technologies will better align education with real-world workforce demands. Programs that integrate classroom learning with practical farm experience help students see agriculture as a viable and innovative career choice.

HFB supports efforts that create statewide consistency while allowing regional flexibility to address the unique agricultural characteristics of each island. Partnerships between educators, producers, and industry stakeholders will be critical to ensure that training programs reflect actual workforce needs.

SB 2320, SD1 represents a positive investment in the next generation of farmers, ranchers, agricultural technicians, and biosecurity professionals. Building a strong agricultural workforce pipeline strengthens Hawai'i's food security and economic resilience.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

March 12, 2026

To: Chair Cory M. Chun, Vice Chair Matthias Kusch, and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems

Subject: SB2320 SD1 – Relating to Agriculture

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

My name is Carlin Rose McFadden, and I serve as a Lead Advocate in Civic Engagement with Hawai'i Food+ Policy at Purple Mai'a Foundation. I am also the author of the Kuleana AgTech Pathways Program reflected in SB2320. I respectfully offer my strong support for SB2320 SD1.

This measure responds to a real and urgent need in Hawai'i. The State's food system depends on cultivating a skilled, culturally grounded, and resilient agricultural workforce, yet too many young people still do not see a clear pathway into agriculture. At the same time, agriculture today is no longer limited to traditional field labor alone. It increasingly depends on technology, data, climate adaptation, and coordinated workforce development. SB2320 SD1 recognizes that reality and offers a practical, forward-looking solution.

KAPP was born from direct classroom and community experience. While teaching Geographic Information Systems to Hawai'i youth through place-based, community-grounded learning, students began to understand agriculture differently. They were mapping food access, land use, water systems, and climate risks in their own communities. They were not simply learning software. They were seeing possibility. Many were introduced for the first time to careers in geospatial analysis, drone operations, agricultural data systems, climate-smart farming, and food systems planning. Agriculture shifted from being perceived narrowly as labor to being recognized as science, technology, entrepreneurship, and stewardship. That shift is exactly what Hawai'i's workforce needs.

SB2320 SD1 builds the structure to make that shift real. The bill establishes the Kuleana AgTech Pathways Program within the University of Hawai'i system and requires collaboration with the Department of Education, Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity, Agribusiness Development Corporation, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, and appropriate community organizations. It expands agricultural science and technology into public high schools and the University of Hawai'i system, supports educator and career coordinator positions, establishes internships and apprenticeships, creates dual-credit opportunities, and provides training in climate-smart farming, cultural stewardship, GIS, drone operations, hydroponics, and entrepreneurship. It also creates at least one regional hub in each county and a tiered certification system at the high school and community college levels.

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 2026, the cohort of interns are undergraduate and graduate students and young professionals working in the food 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.



These provisions are significant because they move the bill beyond aspiration and toward real infrastructure. The SD1 version keeps the heart of the proposal intact while clarifying it as a statewide program rather than a pilot. That change matters. Hawai'i does not need another short-term idea. It needs durable workforce infrastructure that can connect students, educators, farmers, and institutions over time.

This bill also reflects what farmers, students, and communities have already been expressing. Again and again, the barriers named are not lack of interest, but lack of access: lack of mentorship, lack of visibility into agricultural careers, lack of compensated learning opportunities, and lack of coordinated systems that help young people move from curiosity into employment. SB2320 helps fill that gap by creating a supported pipeline rather than leaving students and farmers to navigate it alone.

The appropriations in this measure are therefore essential. A pathway without staff, coordination, equipment, and implementation support is not a pathway at all. Funding is needed to train educators, support regional coordination, build relationships with host farms and organizations, and ensure students can access meaningful work-based learning opportunities. If Hawai'i is serious about strengthening local agriculture, then the State must invest in workforce pathways that are visible, credible, and well-supported.

SB2320 is a win for students because it expands access to high-skill, place-based career opportunities. It is a win for farmers because it helps build structured workforce entry points and stronger mentorship pipelines. It is a win for the State because it strengthens food security, economic resilience, and local technical capacity in agriculture.

Mahalo for your time and consideration. I respectfully urge the Committee to pass SB2320 SD1.

Respectfully,
Carlin Rose McFadden

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 2026, the cohort of interns are undergraduate and graduate students and young professionals working in the food 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.

**Testimony to the House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems
Representative Cory M. Chun, Chair
Representative Matthias Kusch, Vice Chair**

**Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at 9:30AM
Conference Room 325 & Videoconference**

RE: SB2320 SD1 Relating to Agriculture

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

My name is Sherry Menor, President and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber"). The Chamber supports Senate Bill 2320 Senate Draft 1 (SB2320 SD1), which establishes the Kuleana AgTech Pathways Program to create career pipelines in the fields of agriculture and agricultural technology.

SB2320 SD1 aligns with our 2030 Blueprint for Hawaii: An Economic Action Plan, specifically under the policy pillars for Economic Action and 21st Century Agriculture. This bill supports these pillars by establishing county specific agricultural science and technology pathways extending from high school to early career. This regional approach to workforce development improves and modernizes opportunity for employment within the agricultural sector, which struggles with an aging workforce. State support for programming such as KAPP is crucial for empowering students with modern, high demand workforce skills while providing opportunity for application in a food systems context. Grounding this training and development in a sector as vital as agriculture will improve Hawaii's food system resilience, modernize the sector, and create opportunity for innovation.

Allowing regional input for this program also aligns with the Chamber of Commerce Sector Partnerships program, dedicated to building workforce pipelines around industry needs. This bill acknowledges the regional agricultural differences across the state and gives agency to these regions in organizing these talent pipelines around their needs. Such considerations are enabled by engagement with all the partner organizations listed in the bills language and will optimize the investments and intent of this bill.

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii is the state's leading business advocacy organization, dedicated to improving Hawaii's economy and securing Hawaii's future for growth and opportunity. Our mission is to foster a vibrant economic climate. As such, we support initiatives and policies that align with the 2030 Blueprint for Hawaii that create opportunities to strengthen overall competitiveness, improve the quantity and skills of available workforce, diversify the economy, and build greater local wealth.

We respectfully ask to pass Senate Bill 2320 Senate Draft 1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2320-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 4:26:20 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

In support of. Thank you.

SB-2320-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 6:36:45 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glen Kagamida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT! MAHALO!