



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 25, 2026

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 2802, SD1
RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Conference Room 211 & Videoconference
10:55 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Moriwaki, 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 2802, SD1, which appropriates funds to establish a Bachelor's Degree program in agricultural science at Leeward Community College and to fund positions and supplies to support the programs.

Workforce availability remains one of the most significant challenges facing agriculture in Hawai'i. Farmers and ranchers consistently cite difficulty finding and retaining trained employees with the technical, scientific, and operational skills required for modern agricultural operations. Expanding access to applied agricultural education at the community college level helps address this gap while keeping students in Hawai'i to complete their degrees.

The proposed program supports practical, hands-on learning aligned with Hawai'i's unique agricultural systems and labor needs. By integrating agricultural education within Leeward Community College, SB 2802, SD1 creates opportunities for students who may not otherwise pursue four-year degrees, while strengthening the pipeline of future producers, managers, and agricultural professionals. This investment directly supports the development of Hawai'i's agricultural workforce and strengthens long-term career pathways for local students interested in agriculture.

Investments in agricultural education are essential to growing, not just sustaining, agriculture in Hawai'i. Programs like this help advance broader state goals related to local food production, farm-to-school initiatives, economic diversification, and natural resource stewardship.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

SB-2802-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 9:43:23 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2026 10:55:00 AM

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

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support

2802 SB RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair

SB2802 SD1
RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Wednesday, February 25, 2026, 10:55 AM
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports SB2802 SD1** which appropriates moneys to establish bachelor's degree programs in education and in agricultural science at Leeward Community College and to fund 2 FTE positions and supplies to support the programs.

Establishing a career pathway to agriculture is crucial for the industry, as the population of farmers and ranchers continue to age. The industry has cited shortage of labor and entry into the industry as barriers to growth. This includes labor shortages across the entire supply chain, including production, processing, and transportation. An agricultural science degree at LCC can provide an option for local students to get into the agricultural sector and contribute to their local communities.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the four county-level Cattlemen's Associations. Ranchers produce a high-quality protein and are the stewards of almost 750 thousand acres of land in Hawaii, or nearly 20% of the State's total land mass. We represent the interests of Hawaii's cattle producers.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director

