

Committee on Education & Agriculture (EDU/AEN)

RE: Support for SB2320 – Kuleana AgTech Pathways Program

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

My name is [Your Name], and I am a [parent/student/farmer/educator/community member] from [Island/Community]. I am writing in strong support of SB2320, which establishes the Kuleana AgTech Pathways Program.

Hawai'i's agricultural workforce is aging, and many farms are struggling to scale. Between 2017 and 2022, the number of farms in Hawai'i declined by over 10%, and the average farmer age now exceeds 60. At the same time, Hawai'i imports the majority of its food. Without clear pathways for youth to enter agriculture, we risk continued contraction of our local food system.

SB2320 addresses this challenge by:

- Expanding agricultural science and technology into high school and UH Career and Technical Education programs
- Training students in high-demand skills such as GIS, drone operations, climate-smart farming, and agricultural data systems
- Creating internships, apprenticeships, and dual-credit opportunities with local farms and businesses
- Establishing regional AgTech hubs aligned with each county's needs

This program bridges cultural stewardship with modern agricultural tools, preparing the next generation to care for the 'āina while strengthening Hawai'i's food security and workforce resilience.

I respectfully urge the Committee to support SB2320.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Organization, if applicable]

[Your Contact Information]