



# University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

## Environmental Center

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### HB 1713 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

House Committee on Agriculture

Public Hearing - February 9, 1995  
8:30 A.M., Room 1206 SOT

By

John T. Harrison, Environmental Center  
Linda Cox, Agricultural Economics

HB 1713 would require the department of agriculture (DOAg) to establish a code of standards for organic farming in Hawaii.

Our statement on this measure does not constitute an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

Organic methods of agriculture offer substantial benefits to consumers of agricultural products, producers, and to the environment. Implementation of this measure would have the additional advantage of helping to offset the higher product costs of organically-grown produce through market promotion activities which could be undertaken by the DOAg. While organic farming is attractive to certain market segments, it should not, however, be viewed as a panacea for all the state's agricultural problems.

Our main reservation with the measure is that it seems to place additional responsibilities on the DOAg, yet no supporting appropriation is included. Activities alluded to in Section 1. would seem to encompass inspections, testing, and other activities which the department presently does not have the budget to undertake. Thus, while we favor the intent, some funding will have to be provided if the provisions of this measure are to be implemented.