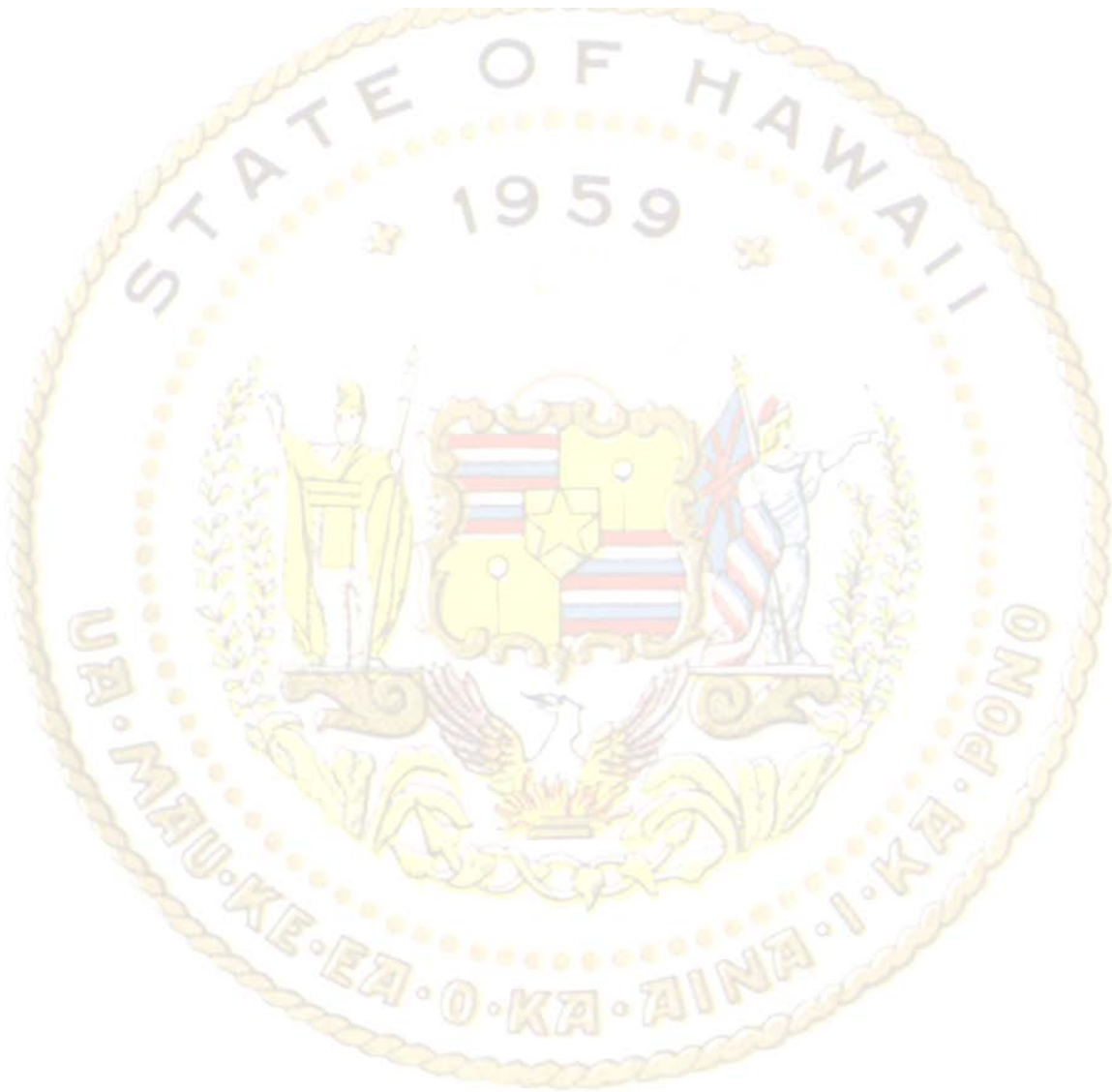


K-12 Agriculture Workforce Development Pipeline Initiative

Report to the 2020 Legislature



State of Hawaii
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations

January 2020

State of Hawaii
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT DIVISION
FY2018-19

The Legislature enacted Act 229 (SLH, 2016; 371-21, Hawaii Revised Statutes) to implement the recommendations of the Hawaii Agriculture Workforce Advisory Board to create an agriculture workforce development pipeline initiative. The intent was to facilitate training on all islands for teachers and school administrators regarding agricultural self-sufficiency.

The 2016 Legislature provided \$200,000 for FY2016-17 for the initiative. However, no program activity occurred specifically through Act 229 during FY2018-2019 because there was no appropriation.

The Department however, through other funding received from the Legislature continues to provide mini grants to fund projects aimed at increasing the agriculture workforce development pipeline. These mini grants have helped grow interest and awareness of opportunities for Hawaii's youth in the field of agriculture.

For example, Hawaii's Future Farmers of America (FFA) membership and chapters were at record lows (10 FFA Chapters and 126 FFA students statewide) in the school year 2013-2014 but through the efforts of the projects funded by DLIR and the Legislature over the past few years, interest in FFA and agriculture in our schools have continued to grow. Starting from the school year 2015-2016 and each year thereafter, the number of FFA chapters and students has doubled that of the 2013-2014 low. Last year, there were 20 FFA chapters and 339 students statewide.