

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 23 2023

RE: H.B. No. 308
H.D. 1
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2023
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Agriculture and Environment, to which was referred H.B. No. 308, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group within the Department of Agriculture;
- (2) Require the working group to submit a plan, any recommendations for implementing the plan, and any proposed legislation to the Legislature; and
- (3) Appropriate funds to establish the working group and develop the plan and for an unspecified number of sustainability specialist positions to be employed by the Department of Agriculture.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Agriculture; Office of Hawaiian Affairs; University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources; Hawai'i Farm Bureau; Sierra Club of Hawai'i; North Shore Economic Vitality Partnership; Hawai'i Public Health Institute; Ulupono Initiative; Hawaii Food Industry Association; Climate



Protectors Hawaii; Hawai'i Tourism Authority; Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc; Hawai'i Farmers Union United; and four individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from one individual. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Health.

Your Committee finds that developing a more sustainable food system for Hawaii represents an opportunity to create a new food economy that integrates the objectives of green job creation, sustainable economic development, land stewardship, food security, environmental protection, and climate change resiliency with the principles of public health and collective well-being. Your Committee acknowledges that the State must lead the way with policies and plans that can propel Hawaii in this new direction pragmatically. However, your Committee recognizes that the Legislature is limited in what it can accomplish on its own, and therefore must rely on and work closely with industry, government agencies, and policy experts to bring its ideas and goals into fruition. Thus, this measure establishes within the Department of Agriculture the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group, a collection of thirty-two representatives from across the State's government agencies and agriculture sector, to develop an interagency food systems plan and appropriates funds and positions to support this group.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Adding to the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group a representative from the Department of Health, to be selected by the Director of Health, and a representative from the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc., to be selected by the president of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.; and
- (2) Replacing the selector of the two representatives of the University of Hawaii System who have experience in food systems, with the Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, and the selector of the representative of the Hawaii Farm Bureau, with the President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Agriculture and Environment that is attached to this



report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 308, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 308, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Agriculture and
Environment,




MIKE GABBARD, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Second Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
AEN

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:
HB 308, HD1	AEN, WAM	03-20-23
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____		
The Recommendation is:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311	<input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310
<input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313		
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)
Nay	Excused	
GABBARD, Mike (C)	X	
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim" (VC)	X	
DECOITE, Lynn	X	
RHOADS, Karl	X	
AWA, Brenton	X	
TOTAL	5	
Recommendation:		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted		
Chair's or Designee's Signature:		
		
Distribution:		
Original File with Committee Report	Yellow Clerk's Office	Pink Drafting Agency
Goldenrod Committee File Copy		

*Only one measure per Record of Votes