STAND. COM. REP. NO.

Honolulu, Hawaii MAR 13 2024

RE: H.B. No. 2134 H.D. 2

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi President of the Senate Thirty-Second State Legislature Regular Session of 2024 State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Agriculture and Environment, to which was referred H.B. No. 2134, H.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURE,"

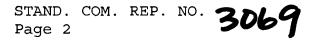
begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to appropriate an unspecified amount of funds to establish an unspecified number of Grant Specialist positions within the Department of Agriculture to assist farmers and ranchers in applying for, obtaining, and fulfilling the requirements of grants offered by federal, state, county, or private entities.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Agriculture; Hawai'i Farm Bureau; Maui County Farm Bureau; Ulupono Initiative; Local Food Coalition; Hawai'i Farmers Union United; Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii; Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.; Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association; Hawaii Aquaculture and Aquaponics Association; Hawaii Food+ Policy; and seven individuals.

Your Committee finds that there are many federal funding opportunities for agricultural purposes that remain untapped or overlooked due to the lack of adequate grant writing and expertise in the Department of Agriculture. This measure enhances the Department's capacity to pursue and maximize the availability of federal funds to bolster the State's efforts towards food security





and sustainability, while easing the burden of complex application procedures and compliance challenges on farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural operators who pursue federal and other funding.

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. 2134, H.D. 2, and recommends that it pass Second Reading 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 Hawaiʻi

Record of Votes Committee on Agriculture and Environment AEN

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:		Da	Date:	
HB 2134, HOZ	AEN, WAM			03/11/24	
The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.					
If so, then the previous decision was to:					
The Recommendation is:					
Pass, unamended Pass, with amendments Hold Recommit 2312 2311 2310 2313					
Members		Ауе	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
GABBARD, Mike (C)		\boldsymbol{X}			
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim" (VC)		\boldsymbol{X}			
DECOITE, Lynn		X			
RHOADS, Karl		X			
AWA, Brenton		\times		_	
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TOTAL		5	D	0	\bigcirc
Recommendation: Not Adopted Not Adopted					
Chair's or Designee's Signature:					
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy					

*Only <u>one</u> measure per Record of Votes