Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 0 8 , 2024

RE: H.B. No. 2138 H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki Speaker, House of Representatives Thirty-Second State Legislature Regular Session of 2024 State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems, to which was referred H.B. No. 2138 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure to appropriate funds to the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources to establish an agriculture education coordinator position.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the University of Hawai'i System; Kanalani Ohana Farm; Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action; Green Party of Hawaii; Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association; Hawai'i Farm Bureau; Hawai'i Food+ Policy; Local Food Coalition; Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management; We Are One, Inc.; Hawai'i Farmers Union United Lanai Chapter; and numerous individuals.

Your Committee finds that to meet the State's aspirations for increased food security and self-sufficiency, the number of local farms and farmers and the amount of food produced for local markets will need to increase significantly. A primary cause of the shortage of new farmers in Hawaii during the past several decades has been the decline in support for agriculture education,

resulting in insufficient interest among youth in pursuing the fields of agriculture and natural resource management. This measure supports a coordinated framework for the expansion of an educated agricultural workforce, which will increase food security, food self-sufficiency, sustainability, and resiliency for Hawaii.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2138, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2138, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Higher Education & Technology.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems,

CEDRIC ASUEGA GATES, Chair

State of Hawaii House of Representatives The Thirty-second Legislature

HSCR 171-24

Record of Votes of the Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

Bill/Resolution No.: HB2\38	Committee Referral: AGR, HE1	, FIN	Date: 2/7/2024	
☐ The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: Pass, unamended (as is) Pass, with amendments (HD) Hold Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
AGR Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. GATES, Cedric Asuega (C)	V			
	/			
2. KAHALOA, Kirstin (VC)	✓			
3. COCHRAN, Elle	V			
4. LOWEN, Nicole E.				
4. LOWEN, NICOLE E.	V_			
5. PERRUSO, Amy A.				
Z. ZERRESS, IMI, IX				
6. WOODSON, Justin H.		201101		
7. WARD, Gene				
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TOTAL (7)	6			(
The recommendation is: Adopted If joint referral, committee acronym(s) Adopted did not support recommendation.				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature:				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				