STAND. COM. REP. NO. 176 -24

Honolulu, Hawaii

FR 18 , 2024

RE: H.B. No. 2618 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. 2618 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AQUACULTURE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to require and appropriate funds for the Department of Agriculture to conduct a feasibility study to identify potential sites in the State for an aquaculture park that promotes commercial aquaculture expansion.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs; Department of Agriculture Agribusiness Development Corporation; Hawaii Aquaculture and Aquaponics Association; Hawaii Farm Bureau; and one individual.

Your Committee finds that dedicated aquaculture parks would be a desirable tool in the State's strategy to grow the aquaculture industry, as successful tenants would help define industry potential and become aspirational examples to potential new operators. By requiring a feasibility study to be conducted to identify appropriate sites in the State for an aquaculture park, this measure would be an important step in furthering the aquaculture industry in the State and ensuring food security and food self-sufficiency.

2024-1310 HB2618 HD1 HSCR HMSO

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the appropriation to an unspecified amount;
- (2) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (3) 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. 2618, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2618, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Water & Land.

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 176-24

Record of Votes of the Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 2618	Committee Referral:	IAL, 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 (WI	R) Nays	Excused
1. GATES, Cedric Asuega (C)				
2. KAHALOA, Kirstin (VC)				
3. COCHRAN, Elle				
3. Cocinent, the				
4. LOWEN, Nicole E.				
5. PERRUSO, Amy A.	<u></u>			
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6. WOODSON, Justin H.				
7. WARD, Gene				
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TOTAL (7)	6			
The recommendation is: Adopted If joint referral, did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s)				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature:				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				