

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

640

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 14 , 2025

RE: H.B. No. 858  
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2025  
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems, to which was referred H.B. No. 858 entitled:

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

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Require the Department of Agriculture to revitalize and enhance the Agricultural Statistics Program to collect data on local agricultural interests; and
- (2) Appropriate funds for program expenses and certain positions.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Agriculture; Department of Research and Development, County of Hawai'i; Ulupono Initiative; Hawai'i Farm Bureau; Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association; and Hawai'i Food+ Policy. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the University of Hawai'i System and Office of Information Practices.

Your Committee finds that accurate and timely agricultural data is essential for supporting Hawaii's farmers, strengthening the local food system, and guiding strategic decision-making for

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policymakers. By improving data collection, analysis, and reporting, this measure will support agricultural producers in optimizing operations, expanding market reach, and increasing food security.

Your Committee notes that the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience increased its capacity in agricultural economics with the hiring of two new agricultural economists last year, with an additional food and agricultural marketing faculty currently under recruitment.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Clarifying provisions related to the exemption of certain data and information collected from public disclosure, under certain conditions;
- (2) Changing the appropriation and allocation amounts to unspecified amounts;
- (3) Changing the number of authorized positions to unspecified numbers;
- (4) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (5) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

Your Committee respectfully requests your Committee on Finance, should it deliberate on this measure, to consider an appropriation amount of \$880,000, including \$170,000 for the establishment of two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) agricultural economist positions; \$280,000 for the establishment of four full-time equivalent (4.0 FTE) research statistician positions; \$130,000 for the establishment of secured office space, equipment, the development of electronic data collection systems, and program expenses throughout the State; and \$300,000 for contracted specialty surveys to be conducted by third-party entities focusing on critical agricultural data needs.

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



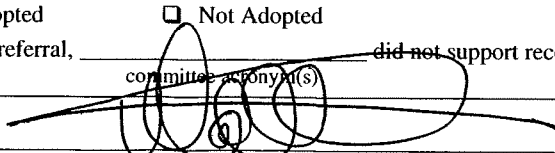
H.B. No. 858, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass  
Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 858, H.D.  
1, and be referred to your Committee on Finance.

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

  
KIRSTIN KAHALOA, Chair



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<b>Bill/Resolution No.:</b> <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">HB 858</div>	<b>Committee Referral:</b> <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">AGR, FIN</div>	<b>Date:</b> <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">2/12/25</div>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
<b>The recommendation is to:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
<b>AGR Members</b>	<b>Ayes</b>	<b>Ayes (WR)</b>	<b>Nays</b>	<b>Excused</b>
1. KAHALOA, Kirstin (C)	X			
2. KUSCH, Matthias (VC)	X			
3. LOWEN, Nicole E.	X			
4. PERRUSO, Amy A.	X			
5. QUINLAN, Sean	X			
6. WARD, Gene				X
<b>TOTAL (6)</b>	5			1
<b>The recommendation is:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">           committee action: _____         </div>				
<b>Vice Chair's or designee's signature:</b> _____ <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">  </div>				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original (White) – Committee      Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office      Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				