

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 12 2025

RE: S.B. No. 1185
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Agriculture and Environment, to which was referred S.B. No. 1185 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish within the Department of Agriculture a working group to review and make recommendations on amending or repealing unnecessary or obsolete laws pertaining to agriculture; and
- (2) Appropriate funds.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the East O'ahu County Farm Bureau; Hawaii Agriculture Research Center; Hawai'i Farm Bureau; Hawai'i Farmers Union United; Hawaii Fish Company, Inc.; Hawai'i Food+ Policy; Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii; and four individuals.

Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Agriculture.

Your Committee finds that this measure, by establishing a working group within the Department of Agriculture, facilitates a comprehensive review of existing laws to identify and either amend



or repeal those that may be unnecessary or obsolete. This approach recognizes the evolving nature of the agricultural sector, which faces new challenges and opportunities that outdated laws may no longer address effectively.

Your Committee further finds that Hawaii's farmers and ranchers face significant regulatory challenges that can hinder agricultural growth and innovation. Many existing agricultural laws and regulations were established decades ago and may no longer align with the needs of modern farming practices, advancements in technology, and the State's goal of increasing local food production. A dedicated working group will provide an opportunity for agricultural stakeholders, policymakers, and regulatory agencies to collaborate in ensuring that the State's agricultural laws and policies are relevant, effective, and supportive of a resilient and sustainable food system.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Adding a representative of the Hawaii Farmers Union to the working group;
- (2) Inserting an effective date of July 1, 2050, to encourage further discussion; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

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 S.B. No. 1185, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 1185, 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Gabbard", written over a horizontal line.

MIKE GABBARD, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
AEN

Bill / Resolution No.:* <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">SB1185</div>	Committee Referral: <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">AEN, WAM</div>	Date: <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">2/7/25</div>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313 </div> </div>				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
GABBARD, Mike (C)	✓			
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim" (VC)				✓
DECOITE, Lynn	✓			
RHOADS, Karl	✓			
AWA, Brenton	✓			
TOTAL	4	0	0	1
Recommendation: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted </div>				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive; margin-left: 100px;">Karl Rhoads</div>				
Distribution: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> <div>Original File with Committee Report</div> <div>Yellow Clerk's Office</div> <div>Pink Drafting Agency</div> <div>Goldenrod Committee File Copy</div> </div>				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes