

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 28 2025

RE: S.B. No. 1582

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. 1582 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE COCONUT TREE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to recognize the coconut palm tree as a sustainable, staple food source in the State.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Hawai'i Farm Bureau, Kuahu Auna O Puna, Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, Pōhaku Pelemaka, Hānai Kaiāulu, Hawai'i Food+ Policy, and thirteen individuals.

Your Committee finds that the coconut palm tree is considered a naturalized Polynesian canoe plant and has been grown in Hawaii for thousands of years. Your Committee recognizes that different parts of the coconut palm, or niu in Hawaiian, can be used for a myriad of uses, including food and emergency drinking water, cosmetic oil, kitchenware, containers, cordage, and construction material. According to testimony received by your Committee, the niu is a drought- and salt-tolerant species that plays a key role in coastal stabilization, erosion control, and carbon sequestration, and its cultivation can support local food production, reduce reliance on imported goods, and enhance food sovereignty. Establishing, designating, and recognizing the



coconut palm tree as a sustainable, staple food source in the State aligns with the State's goals for food security, environmental stewardship, and cultural preservation. This measure seeks to bring awareness to the significance of the coconut palm tree in the State to maximize its production and cultivation.

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. 1582 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Agriculture and
Environment,



MIKE GABBARD, Chair



