STAND. COM. REP. NO. 215

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 1 1 2025

S.B. No. 448 RE: 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 Economic Development and Tourism, to which was referred S.B. No. 448 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to appropriate funds to the Agribusiness Development Corporation to acquire a conservation easement in Central Oahu.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Hawai'i Farmers Union United, and Hawai'i Farm Bureau.

Your Committee finds that throughout the State's history, Hawaii has prioritized conservation, protection of the environment, and responsible use of the State's land, air, water, and other natural resources. This dedication has been mandated within the Hawaii State Constitution by specifying the State's obligation to conserve, protect, and develop responsible selfsufficiency with regards to natural resources and agricultural lands. This constitutional mandate can be furthered through conservation easements, or legal agreements to limit the use of land in order to protect it from irresponsible overuse and irreparable damage.



Your Committee further finds that the State has also displayed concerted efforts to promote agricultural selfsufficiency. Through Act 175, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021, and Act 176, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021, regulations were set for state agencies to purchase locally sourced food and fresh local agricultural products to revitalize local agricultural communities. Therefore, to meet the needs of Hawaii communities and follow the constitutional and statutory mandates by the Legislature, this measure will appropriate funds for acquiring a conservation easement in central Oahu.

Your Committee has amended this measure by inserting an effective date of July 1, 2050, to encourage further discussion.

Your Committee notes that this measure contains an unspecified appropriation amount. Should your Committee on Ways and Means choose to deliberate on this measure, your Committee respectfully requests that it consider an appropriation amount based on future requests made by the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Economic Development and Tourism that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 448, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 448, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

> Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committee on Economic Development and Tourism,

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The Senate Thirty-Third Legislature State of Hawaiʻi

Record of Votes Committee on Economic Development and Tourism EDT

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral: Date:				
SB448	EDT, NAM 2-4-25				
The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.					
If so, then the previous decision was to:					
The Recommendation is:					
Pass, unamended Pass, with amendments Hold Recommit 2312 2311 2310 2313					
Members		Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
DECOITE, Lynn (C)		\sim			
WAKAI, Glenn (VC)					
FUKUNAGA, Carol		V/			
KIM, Donna Mercado					
AWA, Brenton		$\overline{}$			
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Recommendation:				7	
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Chair's or Designee's Signature.					
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod					
File with Committee Report Cerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy					
*Only <u>one measure</u> per Record of Votes					