

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1218

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 14 , 2025

RE: S.B. No. 763
S.D. 2
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 S.B. No. 763, S.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish an Agricultural Enforcement Program within the Department of Law Enforcement;
- (2) Establish the Agricultural Enforcement Special Fund; and
- (3) Appropriate funds for and establish positions within the Agricultural Enforcement Program.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Law Enforcement; Department of Agriculture; Agribusiness Development Corporation; Hawai'i Farm Bureau; Hawaii Cattlemen's Council; Ulupalakua Ranch; Ponoholo Ranch; Hawai'i Food+ Policy; and five individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Budget and Finance.

2025-2565 SB763 HD1 HSCR HMSO



Your Committee finds that agricultural crimes, including theft, vandalism, and trespassing, pose substantial financial and safety risks for Hawaii's farmers and ranchers. Due to the remote locations of agricultural lands, law enforcement response times are often delayed, leading to underreported crimes and, in some cases, dangerous confrontations. To improve enforcement and deterrence, this measure establishes an Agricultural Enforcement Program within the Department of Law Enforcement to specifically address crimes affecting the agricultural sector and ensure the sustainability of Hawaii's farming industry.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Clarifying the statutory reference to the offenses that involve the theft of an agricultural product or commodity under the responsibilities of state law enforcement officers in the Agricultural Enforcement Program;
- (2) Designating the Department of Agriculture, rather than the Board of Agriculture, as the entity to make certain determinations related to expenditures from the Agricultural Enforcement Special Fund;
- (3) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (4) 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 S.B. No. 763, S.D. 2, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 763, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.



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


KIRSTIN KAHALOA, Chair



