

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

2123

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 10 2010

RE: S.B. No. 2781
S.D. 1

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa
President of the Senate
Twenty-Fifth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2010
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian
Affairs, to which was referred S.B. No. 2781 entitled:

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

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to authorize the Legislature
to designate, by concurrent resolution, certain agricultural lands
as important agricultural lands, where the Legislature finds that
the designation is necessary to protect agricultural lands, to
promote diversified agriculture, or to control future growth,
development, and land use.

Testimony in support of this measure was submitted by two
private entities and two individuals. Testimony in opposition was
submitted by one state agency, one private organization, and one
business. One state agency submitted comments.

Written testimony presented to the Committee may be reviewed
on the Legislature's website.

Your Committee finds that since the State's land use law was
enacted in 1961, the lands most suited for intensive agricultural
use have declined from 359,690 acres (class A, 125,160 acres;
class B, 234,530 acres) in 1960 to 172,094 acres (class A, 56,653
acres; class B, 115,441 acres) in 2007.

Your Committee further finds that the inventory of lands that
are suitable for agriculture is essentially fixed. Unlike other



land uses that may be redirected through the development of infrastructure or other amenities, agricultural lands cannot be manufactured when the demand for the lands increases. It is therefore doubly important to protect this valuable and very finite resource, and to ensure that the State honors the mandate of Article XI, Section 3, of the State Constitution to "conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, increase agricultural self-sufficiency and assure the availability of agriculturally suitable lands."

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Requiring the concurrent resolution to be adopted by a two-thirds vote of both houses of the Legislature;
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency; and
- (3) Amending the effective date to July 1, 2040 for the purpose of encouraging further discussion.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2781, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2781, S.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Water, Land,
Agriculture, and Hawaiian
Affairs,

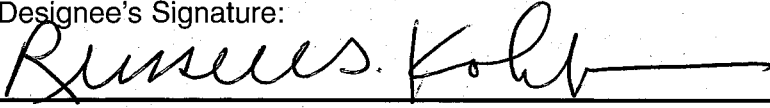


CLAYTON HEE, Chair



The Senate
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State of Hawaii

Record of Votes
Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs
WTL

Bill / Resolution No.:* <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">SB 2781</div>	Committee Referral: <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">WTL, JGO</div>	Date: <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">2/5/10</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
HEE, Clayton (C)	/			
TOKUDA, Jill N. (VC)				/
BUNDA, Robert				/
FUKUNAGA, Carol	/			
KOKUBUN, Russell S.	/			
TAKAMINE, Dwight Y.	/			
HEMMINGS, Fred	/			
TOTAL	5			2
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-top: 10px;">  </div>				
Distribution: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: 0.8em;"> <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**