

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 24 2017

RE: H.B. No. 1279
H.D. 1
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2017
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Higher Education and Agriculture and Environment, to which was referred H.B. No. 1279, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL FOOD PRODUCTION,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds for the Community Food Systems Center at the University of Hawaii West Oahu to expand upon its existing education for sustainable agricultural food production by:

- (1) Establishing scholarships for students in the Community Food Systems concentration;
- (2) Creating positions for a full-time garden manager and part-time student assistants for the student organic garden at the University of Hawaii West Oahu;
- (3) Creating a Hawaiian Center for Sustainable Community Food Systems; provided that the University of Hawaii West Oahu first conducts and submits to the Legislature a study to determine the feasibility and benefits of creating the center; and



- (4) Implementing research projects, hosting conferences, and employing additional staff and faculty as the director of the program deems necessary.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the University of Hawai'i System, Department of Agriculture, Hawai'i Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development, Kamehameha Schools, MA'O Organic Farms, and two individuals. Your Committees received comments on this measure from the Office of Planning and Hawai'i Farm Bureau.

Your Committees find that around eighty-five percent of Hawaii's food is imported, making the State vulnerable to events that disrupt shipping and other modes of transporting food. Your Committees further find that, in addition to food security, growing food within the State is important for the local economy and economic development.

Your Committees additionally find that systematically advancing the goals of food security, resiliency, and equity in Hawaii require promoting an understanding of sustainable food production and training a new generation of students for jobs in the sustainable food and agriculture sector. Your Committees recognize that the Community Food Systems Center at the University of Hawaii West Oahu provides a rich experiential, applied, and multi-disciplinary undergraduate education that develops student comprehension of interrelated ecological and social issues in agriculture. Your Committees find that the efforts supported by this measure are an essential part of meeting the State's *Increased Food Security and Food Self-Sufficiency Strategy* established in 2012.

Your Committees have amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting an effective date of July 1, 2017; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

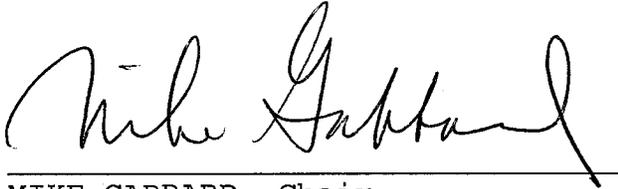
Your Committees recommend that if your Committee on Ways and Means chooses to pass this measure, that it consider inserting an appropriation amount of \$1,300,000 for the Community Food Systems



Center at the University of Hawaii West Oahu to expand upon its existing education for sustainable agricultural food production.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Higher Education and Agriculture and Environment that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1279, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1279, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Higher Education
and Agriculture and
Environment,



MIKE GABBARD, Chair



KAIULANI KAHELE, Chair



The Senate
 Twenty-Ninth Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
AEN

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
HB 1279, HD1	HRE/AEN, WAM	3/20/17		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
GABBARD, Mike (C)	X			
RIVIERE, Gil (VC)	X			
NISHIHARA, Clarence K.				X
RHOADS, Karl	X			
RUDERMAN, Russell E.	X			
TOTAL	4	0	0	1
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
				
Distribution:				
Original File with Committee Report	Yellow Clerk's Office	Pink Drafting Agency	Goldenrod Committee File Copy	

*Only one measure per Record of Votes