STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2382

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 0 6 2020

RE: S.B. No. 2703

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi President of the Senate Thirtieth State Legislature Regular Session of 2020 State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Agriculture and Environment, to which was referred S.B. No. 2703 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to establish in the Department of Agriculture a grant program to assist beginning farmers and ranchers in meeting the operating costs, including start-up and organization costs, to start their farm or ranch operations.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Agriculture; Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.; Maui Chamber of Commerce; Hawaii Farm Bureau; Ulupono Initiative; Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii; and one individual.

Your Committee finds that increased local food production is a goal of the State. In order to increase the amount of locally grown food consumed by Hawaii residents, it is necessary for new farmers and ranchers to enter the agricultural industry. However, the costs to begin agricultural operations are often prohibitive to new farmers and ranchers. Your Committee finds that a grant program will assist new farmers and ranchers to begin their agricultural operations which will then add local agricultural products to the market to increase the ability for consumers to eat locally produced foods.

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. 2703 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

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

MIKE GABBARD, Chair

The Senate Thirtieth Legislature State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes Committee on Agriculture and Environment AEN

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 2703	Committee Referral: A∈N,WAM		Date: 0210312020		
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 (W	R) Nay	Excused
GABBARD, Mike (C)		X			
RUDERMAN, Russell E. (VC)		X	:		
RHOADS, Karl		X			
THIELEN, Laura H.		>			
FEVELLA, Kurt		7			
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TOTAL		5	Ó	0	0
Recommendation: Adopted Not Adopted					
Chair's or Designee's Signature:					
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy					

*Only one measure per Record of Votes