

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

534

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 19 2021

RE: S.B. No. 1311
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-First State Legislature
Regular Session of 2021
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Education and Agriculture and Environment,
to which was referred S.B. No. 1311 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Require the Department of Education to establish food waste and zero-emission vehicle goals as part of the sustainable schools initiative; and
- (2) Require annual reports to the Legislature.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawai'i Public Health Institute, Uluono Initiative, Americans for Democratic Action, Take Flight, Climate Protectors Hawaii, Hawaii Electric Vehicle Association, and seven individuals. Your Committees received comments on this measure from the Department of Education and Hawaii State Energy Office.

Your Committees find that food in public schools is wasted each day, costing the Department of Education millions of dollars each year. Safely sharing unused food that would otherwise be wasted with those who need it and implementing on-site campus composting programs that students can be involved with will help divert food waste from landfills, save potentially millions of



dollars annually, provide students with valuable and engaging learning experiences, and give farmers and communities fresh carbon-sequestering compost. Additionally, your Committees find that providing access to healthy plant-based foods in state public schools is an effective way to improve sustainability and student health.

Your Committees also find that traditional internal combustion school bus engines emit exhaust, which children breathe in while riding buses and sitting in traffic, and can increase asthma and other health problems. In contrast, electric school buses provide potential benefits to the quality of student health, the environment, utility infrastructure, and cost savings. Additionally, electric buses have lower operational, maintenance, and labor costs than comparable buses powered by internal combustion engines and align with Hawaii's established goals of achieving a carbon-negative economy by 2045. This measure will engage students in sustainable living through learning about food waste management and provide students with zero emission transportation in the future.

Your Committees note that because the Department of Education contracts the majority of transportation services through private companies, the Department of Education will be somewhat constrained in the speed at which they can meet zero emissions goals. The Department of Education must balance the mandate to provide transportation services to students with the goals contained within this measure. Your Committees understand that this balancing effort may require amendments down the line based on the capacity for the Department of Education and their private contractors to replace existing internal combustion engine fleets and looks forward to the annual reports from the Department of Education to the Legislature.

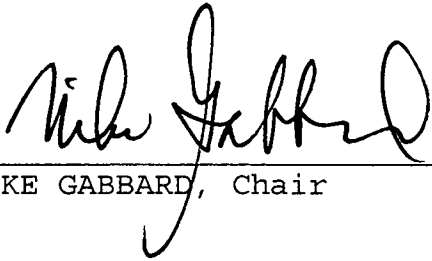
Your Committees have amended this measure by making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Education and Agriculture and Environment that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 1311, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto



as S.B. No. 1311, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on
Judiciary.

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



MIKE GABBARD, Chair

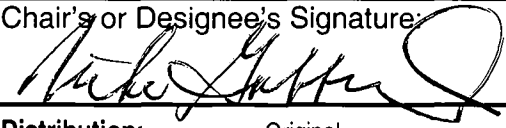


MICHELLE N. KIDANI, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-First Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
AEN

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:
SB 1311	EDU / AEN, JDC	02/17/2021
<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)	✓	
NISHIHARA, Clarence K. (VC)		✓
ACASIO, Laura	✓	
RHOADS, Karl	✓	
FEVELLA, Kurt	✓	
TOTAL	4	1
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> 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