

Honolulu, Hawaii

**MAR 21 2022**RE: H.B. No. 2466  
H.D. 2  
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirty-First State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2022  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Agriculture and Environment, to which was referred H.B. No. 2466, H.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TARO,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to exempt the gross proceeds or income received from the sale of any product resulting from the cultivation and production of unprocessed taro in the State from the general excise tax.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Agriculture, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Hawai'i Farm Bureau, Mahiku A'o Mai Food Security Services, Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action, Restore the Commons, Hawai'i Food+ Policy Internship, Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club, and eight individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Department of Taxation. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Budget and Finance, Department of the Attorney General, and Tax Foundation of Hawaii.

Your Committee finds that Hawaii imports a significant portion of the food consumed within the State. While the State has taken steps to increase the production of food in Hawaii, staple starches remain underproduced in the State. Your Committee



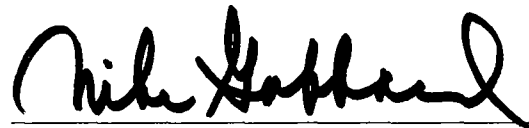
believes that taro can help to fill that critical gap in Hawaii's local food production. This measure supports the expansion of local taro production by exempting unprocessed taro from the general excise tax.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Removing a requirement that taro must be produced and cultivated in the State to qualify for the exemption;
- (2) Excluding bulk buyers or shippers, supermarkets, and big box stores from the exemption; and
- (3) Defining "primary ingredient".

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 H.B. No. 2466, H.D. 2, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2466, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, 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  
 Thirty-First Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Agriculture and Environment**  
**AEN**

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
HB2466 HD2	AEN, WAM	03/14/22		
<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				/
<b>TOTAL</b>	4	-	-	/
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