

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

2609

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 18 2022

RE: S.B. No. 1416

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 S.B. No. 1416 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO FARMER EQUITY,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish requirements for the Department of Agriculture to enhance farmer equity by ensuring inclusion of socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers in the development, implementation, and enforcement of food and agriculture laws, rules, policies, and programs; and
- (2) Require an annual report to the Legislature.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Agriculture; Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.; and one individual. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Hawai'i Farm Bureau.

Your Committee finds that farmers are key to the State's food system. However, many farmers who are socially disadvantaged face unique additional barriers to success. Existing policies are insufficient to meet the needs of socially disadvantaged farmers. This measure supports socially disadvantaged farmers by requiring the Department of Agriculture to enhance farmer equity and ensure



inclusion of socially disadvantaged farmers in agricultural policy decision making.

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. 1416 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to your Committee on Judiciary.

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:
SB 1416	AEN, JDC	02/07/22

The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.
If so, then the previous decision was to: _____

The Recommendation is:

Pass, unamended 2312 Pass, with amendments 2311 Hold 2310 Recommit 2313

Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
GABBARD, Mike (C)	/			
NISHIHARA, Clarence K. (VC)	/			
ACASIO, Laura	/			
RHOADS, Karl	/			
FEVELLA, Kurt	/			
TOTAL	5			

Recommendation: Adopted Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature:
Clarence K. Nishihara

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*Only one measure per Record of Votes