

Honolulu, Hawaii

**MAR 24 2023**

RE: H.B. No. 837  
H.D. 1  
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirty-Second State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2023  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Agriculture and Environment and Water and Land, to which was referred H.B. No. 837, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE STATE PLAN,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish green infrastructure objectives, policies, and priority guidelines for state facility systems, infrastructure, transit projects, and other areas in the Hawaii State Planning Act to improve the quality of life for residents and visitors;
- (2) Add a definition of "green infrastructure"; and
- (3) Require the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, in partnership with the Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force, to submit a report to the Legislature making recommendations for implementing the green infrastructure objectives, policies, and priority guidelines.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission, Office of Planning



and Sustainable Development, Climate Future Forum, Climate Protectors Hawai'i, Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition, and four individuals.

Your Committees find that green infrastructure is a crucial tool to reduce urban temperatures and carbon emissions, improve air quality, and capture water to replenish the water table. Green infrastructure measures include usage of plant or soil systems, permeable pavement, stormwater harvesting and reuse, or landscaping to conserve water. As the State's natural resources are finite and fragile, additional protection of natural resources is needed to adapt to climate change, coastal erosion, and sea level rise. This measure reaffirms the State's commitment to climate change mitigation and adaptation by prioritizing natural solutions to meet the State's objectives, policies, and goals.


Your Committees have amended this measure by:

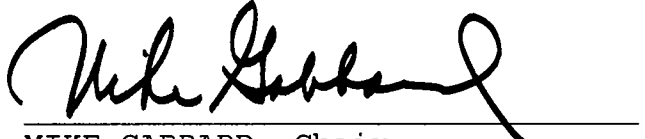
- (1) Inserting an appropriation amount of \$150,000 for:
  - (A) The establishment of one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) policy analyst position, which shall be exempt from chapter 76, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and
  - (B) Program funding;
- (2) Amending section 1 to reflect its amended purpose; and
- (3) 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 Agriculture and Environment and Water and Land that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 837, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 837, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.



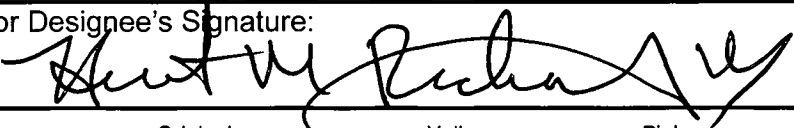
Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committees on Agriculture and  
Environment and Water and Land,

  
LORRAINE R. INOUE, Chair

  
MIKE GABBARD, Chair

The Senate  
Thirty-Second Legislature  
State of Hawai'i

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

Bill / Resolution No.:* <b>HB 837, HD1</b>	Committee Referral: <b>AEN/WTL, WAM</b>	Date: <b>03-22-23</b>		
<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)	<del>X</del>			
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim" (VC)	<del>X</del>			
DECOITE, Lynn	<del>X</del>			
RHOADS, Karl	<del>X</del>			
AWA, Brenton	<del>X</del>			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>			
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

The Senate  
 Thirty-Second Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Water and Land**  
**WTL**

Bill / Resolution No.:* <b>HB 837, HD1</b>	Committee Referral: <b>AEN/WTL, WAM</b>	Date: <b>3/22/23</b>
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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
INOUYE, Lorraine R. (C)	✓			
ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C. (VC)	✓			
CHANG, Stanley	✓			
MCKELVEY, Angus L.K.				✓
FEVELLA, Kurt				✓
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>

Recommendation:    
 Adopted    
 Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature: 

**Distribution:**    
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