

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2023

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair
Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa, Vice Chair

Rep. Elle Cochran Rep. Justin H. Woodson
Rep. Nicole E. Lowen Rep. Gene Ward
Rep. Amy A. Perruso

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Monday, February 13, 2023
TIME: 2:20 PM
PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
 Conference Room 312
 State Capitol
 415 South Beretania Street

Click [here](#) to submit testimony and to testify remotely or in person.

A live stream link of all House Standing Committee meetings will be available online shortly before the scheduled start time.

Click [here](#) for the live stream of this meeting via YouTube.

A G E N D A

HB 605 Status	RELATING TO INFRASTRUCTURE. Establishes a dam and reservoir working group to ensure and enhance the continued availability and operation of dams and reservoirs in the State and consider their role in drought mitigation and the maintenance of a dependable water supply. Appropriates funds.	AGR, FIN
HB 308 Status	RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS. Establishes the sustainable food systems working group within the department of agriculture. Requires the working group to submit a plan, any recommendations for implementing the plan, and any proposed legislation to the legislature. Appropriates funds to establish the working group and develop the plan and for an unspecified number of sustainability specialist positions to be employed by the department of agriculture.	AGR, FIN
HB 309 Status	RELATING TO IRRIGATION. Authorizes the director of finance to issue general obligation bonds to finance capital improvements to various irrigation systems.	AGR, FIN



HB 311 Status	RELATING TO KALO FARMING. Establishes a GET exemption for the gross proceeds from the sale of machinery, fuel, chemicals, seed, huli, animals, or feed to a qualified farmer and directly related to the qualified farmer's kalo farming operations.	AGR, FIN
HB 610 Status	RELATING TO TAXATION. Establishes the farm workforce retention tax credit for farm employers or owners of farm employers who employ eligible farm employees.	AGR, FIN
HB 612 Status	RELATING TO TAXATION. Creates an income tax credit to alleviate the high costs of production for farmers, ranchers, and fishers and incentivize growth in the agricultural sector in the State.	AGR, FIN
HB 608 Status	RELATING TO TAXATION. Establishes an organic foods production tax credit applicable to taxable years beginning after 12/31/2023. Sunsets 12/31/2033.	AGR, FIN
HB 1424 Status	RELATING TO HEMP. Requires that the identity statement used for labeling or advertising hemp products identify the percentage of Hawaii grown hemp and hemp of other origins contained in hemp products. Effective 6/29/2023.	AGR, CPC
HB 1270 Status	RELATING TO HEMP. Establishes a task force to gather data and information and make recommendations to the legislature on strategies and actions to support a vibrant hemp industry, agriculture, and rural economic development.	AGR, FIN
HB 973 Status	RELATING TO HEMP. Amends section 141-43 (a), Hawaii Revised Statutes, to delete the requirement for additional rules by the Department of Agriculture to address nuisance issues, including smell, noise, and excessive lighting arising out of the activities of hemp growers.	AGR, JHA
HB 976 Status	RELATING TO HEMP SPECIAL FUND. Amends section 141-14, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to rename the Industrial Hemp Special Fund as the Hemp Special Fund and allow the fund to be utilized for the Department of Agriculture's responsibilities regarding hemp under part III of chapter 141, Hawaii Revised Statutes.	AGR, FIN
HB 657 Status	RELATING TO AGRICULTURE. Appropriates funds for the Department of Agriculture to identify a central area on Maui, then plan, design, and construct a hemp decorticator facility for the use of interested parties in the area.	AGR, FIN
HB 1248 Status	RELATING TO SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM INCENTIVES. Appropriates funds to DOA for the continued administration of the Hawaii healthy food incentive program and to provide matching funds to beneficiaries who participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance program.	AGR, FIN



<u>HB 275</u> <u>Status</u>	RELATING TO TARO. Appropriates funds to the department of agriculture to provide grants to Hawaii farming groups to be disbursed to taro farmers.	AGR, FIN
<u>HB 975</u> <u>Status</u>	RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE. This housekeeping measure addresses potential deficiencies in Act 312, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022, which established a three-year cover crop reimbursement pilot program to provide up to 75 per cent cost reimbursement to farming operations in the State for the acquisition of cover crop seeds, green manure, or compost to incentivize such practices.	AGR, JHA
<u>HB 619</u> <u>Status</u>	RELATING TO TAXATION. Establishes an income tax credit for qualified small farms with gross sales of \$250,000 or less that donate eligible food products or prepared food to food banks or food pantries. Appropriates funds. Sunsets 6/30/2026.	AGR, FIN
<u>HB 247</u> <u>Status</u>	RELATING TO AGRICULTURE. Increases the percentages of local agricultural products that certain departments are required to purchase by certain deadlines. Expands annual reporting requirements to include the total spending by certain market channels. Requires each relevant state departments and the University of Hawaii system to include a corrective action plan in its respective report to the legislature, should it not meet its benchmark. Repeals the separate benchmark for the department of education that requires thirty per cent of food served in public schools to consist of locally sourced products by 2030.	AGR, FIN

DECISION MAKING TO FOLLOW

Persons wishing to offer comments should submit testimony at least **24 hours** prior to the hearing. Testimony received after this time will be stamped late and left to the discretion of the chair to consider. While every effort will be made to incorporate all testimony received, materials received on the day of the hearing or improperly identified or directed, may not be processed.

Testimony submitted will be placed on the legislative website. This public posting of testimony on the website should be considered when including personal information in your testimony.

The chair may institute a per-testifier time limit.

Committees meeting in the morning must adjourn prior to the day's Floor Session. Therefore, due to time constraints, not all testifiers may be provided an opportunity to offer verbal comments. However, written submissions will be considered by the committee.

Please refrain from profanity or uncivil behavior. Violations may result in ejection from the hearing without the ability to rejoin.

For remote testifiers, the House will not be responsible for bad connections on the testifier's end.

For general help navigating the committee hearing process, please contact the Public Access Room at (808) 587-0478 or par@capitol.hawaii.gov.

The cable TV broadcast and/or live stream of this meeting will include closed captioning. If you require other auxiliary aids or services to participate in the public hearing process (i.e. interpretive services (oral or written) or ASL interpreter) or are



unable to submit testimony via the website due to a disability, please contact the committee clerk at least 24 hours prior to the hearing so that arrangements can be made.

Click [here](#) for a complete list of House Guidelines for remote testimony.

FOR AMENDED NOTICES: Measures that have been deleted are stricken through and measures that have been added are bolded.

For more information, please contact the Committee Clerk at (808) 586-8460

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates
Chair

