STAND. COM. REP. NO.

516

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 16 ' 2023

RE: H.B. No. 974 H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki Speaker, House of Representatives Thirty-Second State Legislature

Regular Session of 2023 State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems, to which was referred H.B. No. 974 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to establish and appropriate funds for a Program Specialist position within the Department of Agriculture to perform a variety of roles relating to identifying, obtaining, and administering grants.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Agriculture, Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Ulupono Initiative, Hawaii Farm Bureau, and one individual.

Your Committee finds that there are many federal funding opportunities that offer support for agricultural purposes. These opportunities remain untapped or overlooked because of a lack of expertise in grant writing and grant administration in the Department of Agriculture. Your Committee further finds that many small farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural operators similarly lack expertise or time to identify and apply for grants. This measure is intended to bolster the State's efforts toward food security and sustainability by establishing a Program Specialist to pursue and maximize federal funds to support agricultural efforts in the State.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the effective date to June 30, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 974, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 974, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems,

CEDRIC ASUEGA GATES, Chair

State of Hawaii House of Representatives The Thirty-second Legislature

HSCR516

Record of Votes of the Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 974	Committee Referral: AGR, F.	N Date:	410/202	7
☐ The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: Pass, unamended (as is) Pass, with amendments (HD) Hold Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
AGR Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. GATES, Cedric Asuega (C)				
2. KAHALOA, Kirstin (VC)	J			
3. COCHRAN, Elle				
4. LOWEN, Nicole E.	V		: '	
5. PERRUSO, Amy A.				
6. WOODSON, Justin H.				
7. WARD, Gene				
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- 17				
TOTAL (7)	7			<u></u>
The recommendation is: Adopted If joint referral, committee acronym(s) Adopted did not support recommendation.				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature:				
Distribution: Original (White) - Committee Duplicate (Yellow) - Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) - HMSO				