

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 17 2023

RE: S.B. No. 1272

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

Sir:

Your Committee on Agriculture and Environment, to which was referred S.B. No. 1272 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish and appropriate funds for a program specialist position within the Department of Agriculture for grant writing, technical assistance, and related activities; and
- (2) Prioritize assistance for farmers and ranchers who produce local food that is at least partially consumed within the State.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Agriculture; Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.; Kanalani Ohana Farm; Ulupono Initiative; Food+ Policy Internship 2023; and one individual.

Your Committee finds that farmers and ranchers in the State are in need of financial resource and skill support to increase food production in Hawaii. Your Committee further finds that many federal programs are dedicated to state departments or agencies that can apply for funding to support local initiatives. Establishing a position at the Department of Agriculture that will



prioritize grant opportunities is extremely timely, not only to meet the needs of local farmers and ranchers, but also to make the most of the funding opportunities made available by the federal government. This measure funds and establishes a position within the Department of Agriculture to assist ranchers and farmers in securing funding through available grants to ensure access to capital for operations to succeed.

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. 1272 and recommends that it pass Second Reading 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-Second Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
AEN

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:
SB1272	AEN, WAM	02-15-23


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)	X			
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim" (VC)	X			
DECOITE, Lynn	X			
RHOADS, Karl	X			
AWA, Brenton	X			
TOTAL	5			

Recommendation: Adopted Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature: 

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*Only one measure per Record of Votes