

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

42

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 06 , 2023

RE: H.B. No. 284
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. 284 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TARO,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to temporarily exempt from the general excise tax all of the gross proceeds or income received from the sale of any product resulting from the cultivation and production of unprocessed taro or of any value-added product of which the primary ingredient is taro or taro leaf.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Agriculture, Hawai'i Farm Bureau, Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action, Hawai'i Farmers Union United, Hawai'i SEED, Malama Kaua'i, and twelve individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Department of Taxation, and Tax Foundation of Hawaii.

Your Committee finds that the general excise tax can be a significant burden for farmers, especially for those growing crops like taro that have limited markets and thin margins. This exemption would provide much-needed financial relief for taro farmers and help to ensure that this important cultural crop remains viable.

2023-1124 HB284 HD1 HSCR HMSO



Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting definitions for the terms "big-box store" and "supermarket"; 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. 284, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 284, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Economic Development.

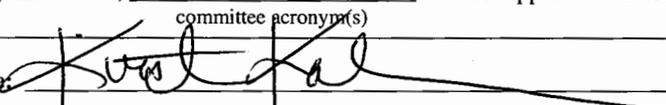
Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Agriculture & Food
Systems,



CEDRIC ASUEGA GATES, Chair



Record of Votes of the Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

Bill/Resolution No.: HB284	Committee Referral: AGR, ECO, FIN	Date: 2/1/2023		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> 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)	✓			
3. COCHRAN, Elle	✓			
4. LOWEN, Nicole E.	✓			
5. PERRUSO, Amy A.	✓			
6. WOODSON, Justin H.	✓			
7. WARD, Gene	✓			
TOTAL (7)	7			
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation.				
committee acronym(s)				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: 				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				