STAND. COM. REP. NO. 44

Honolulu, Hawaii FEB 06 , 2023

RE: H.B. No. 313 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. 313 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Appropriate funds to the University of Hawaii to establish a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program to identify and purchase foreign agricultural technology and retrofit engines to comply with the United States Environmental Protection Agency's emission standards for small engines; and
- (2) Require the University of Hawaii to report to the Legislature its findings and recommendations regarding the pilot program.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.; Ulupono Initiative; Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii; Hawai'i Farm Bureau; Maui County Farm Bureau; and three individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Agriculture and University of Hawai'i System.

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Your Committee finds that as the demand for unskilled labor increases, farmers and ranchers are searching for ways to use technology to better operate their farms and ranches. Your Committee further finds that agricultural operations in the State may benefit from access to and use of foreign agricultural technology, like small equipment tractors from Japan. However, this type of equipment cannot be imported because it does not comply with the United States Environmental Protection Agency's emission standards for small engines. Establishment of a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program will enable greater efficiencies in farming practices, especially for small-scale farming in the State, and further the viability of agriculture in Hawaii.

Your Committee has amended this measure by changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion.

Should your Committee on Higher Education & Technology deliberate on this measure, your Committee respectfully requests that it consider mentioning in the measure other countries, including India, from which to acquire agricultural technology for the foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program.

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. 313, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 313, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Higher Education & Technology.

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

CEDRIC ASUEGA GATES, Chair

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State of Hawaii House of Representatives The Thirty-second Legislature



Record of Votes of the Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

Bill/Resolution No.:	Committee Referral:	Date:		
HB313	AGR, HET, FIN	2	-11/2023	3
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)				
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2. KAHALOA, Kirstin (VC)	V			
3. COCHRAN, Elle			and a start of the second s Second second s	n
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4. LOWEN, Nicole E.				<u>an an a</u>
5. PERRUSO, Amy A.	\checkmark			
6. WOODSON, Justin H.				
7. WARD, Gene		<u>ndelse og en slive</u>	nin <u>1997 - Angel Angel II</u>	in <u>andra ingina ingina ingina</u>
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TOTAL (7)	/			
The recommendation is: Image: Adopted life point referral,				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature:				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				