

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 06 2023

RE: H.B. No. 995
H.D. 2
S.D. 1

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

Sir:

Your Committee on Ways and Means, to which was referred H.B. No. 995, H.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL LANDS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to clarify the process and provide incentives for designating lands as important agricultural lands.

More specifically, the measure:

- (1) Amends section 205-49, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to conform with existing Land Use Commission rules by clarifying that the adoption of county maps of important agricultural lands occurs through rulemaking, rather than through a contested case hearing; and
- (2) Provides a means to develop cluster housing for farmers and farm employees on important agricultural lands.

Your Committee received written comments in support of this measure from the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; Department of Agriculture; City and County of Honolulu, Department of Planning and Permitting; Office of Planning and Sustainable Development; and Hawaii Farm Bureau.



Your Committee received written comments on this measure from the Land Use Commission.

Your Committee finds that the clarifications made and incentives provided by this measure will help the State conserve and protect agricultural lands and promote agricultural self-sufficiency by removing obstacles to the designation of lands as important agricultural lands.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Clarifying that an agricultural plan or agricultural business plan shall be submitted to the county by the landowner or lessee and that the county may submit the plan to the Department of Agriculture for review and comment;
- (2) Combining two paragraphs of new statutory text to avoid redundancy;
- (3) Changing the effective date to July 1, 2050, to facilitate further discussion on the measure; and
- (4) Making technical nonsubstantive amendments for purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Ways and Means that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 995, H.D. 2, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 995, H.D. 2, S.D. 1.

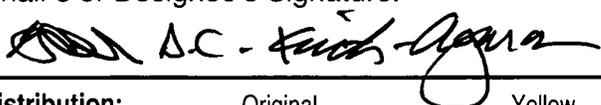
Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Ways and Means,


DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Second Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Ways and Means
WAM

Bill / Resolution No.:* HB995, HD2	Committee Referral: KEN/WTL,WAM	Date: 4/4/23		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
DELA CRUZ, Donovan M. (C)	X			
KEITH-AGARAN, Gilbert S.C. (VC)	X			
AQUINO, Henry J.C.	X			
DECOITE, Lynn	X			
INOUYE, Lorraine R.	X			
KANUHA, Dru Mamo	X			
KIDANI, Michelle N.	X			
KIM, Donna Mercado	X			
LEE, Chris	X			
MORIWAKI, Sharon Y.	X			
SHIMABUKURO, Maile S.L.	X			
WAKAI, Glenn	X			
FEVELLA, Kurt	X			
TOTAL	13			
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes