

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 15 2023

RE: S.B. No. 1501
S.D. 1

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

Sir:

Your Committees on Agriculture and Environment and Water and Land, to which was referred S.B. No. 1501 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE PROTECTION OF TARO LANDS,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to prohibit the Board of Land and Natural Resources from disturbing or acquiring for development certain wetland taro-growing lands.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from Ku-A-Kanaka, LLC; Malama Makua; Hawaiian Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i; Hawai'i Farmers Union United; and seven individuals. Your Committees received comments on this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Your Committees find that taro, or kalo, is a traditional Hawaiian vegetable root crop and food that has sustained Hawaii's people and culture for centuries and that the preservation and protection of taro and taro farming is a significant piece of the State's cultural identity and food security initiative. This measure improves protections for wetland taro lands and ancient agricultural structures on state owned or acquired lands.

Your Committees have amended this measure by incorporating the recommendations raised in testimony by the Department of Land and Natural Resources to adopt language used in a similar measure,

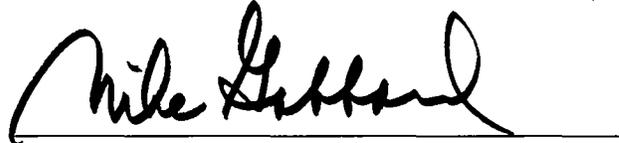


S.B. No. 1498, Regular Session of 2023, which specifies that the Board of Land and Natural Resources shall not disturb certain taro lands and systems on undeveloped lands used for wetland taro cultivation before statehood and currently in use for wetland taro cultivation.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Agriculture and Environment and Water and Land that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 1501, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 1501, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Judiciary.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Agriculture and
Environment and Water and Land,


LORRAINE R. INOUE, Chair


MIKE GABBARD, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Second Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
AEN

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB1501	Committee Referral: AEN/WTL, JDC	Date: 02-10-23		
<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
GABBARD, Mike (C)	X			
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim" (VC)	X			
DECOITE, Lynn	X			
RHOADS, Karl	X			
AWA, Brenton	X			
TOTAL	5			
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

