STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2156

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 0 7 2024 RE: S.B. NO. 2805 S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi President of the Senate Thirty-Second State Legislature Regular Session of 2024 State of Hawaii

Sir:

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Your Committees on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism and Agriculture and Environment, to which was referred S.B. No. 2805 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURE,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- Require the Agribusiness Development Corporation to develop a program to educate and assist farmers and ranchers in the process of transitioning agricultural businesses to new owners;
- (2) Require the program to connect individuals interested in entering farming or ranching, or existing farmers or ranchers interested in expanding their business, with farmers and ranchers who have not yet identified a successor owner; and
- (3) Appropriate money.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the Agribusiness Development Corporation; Hawai'i Farm Bureau; Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.; and one individual.



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Your Committees received comments on this measure from the Department of Agriculture.

Your Committees find that the State's total amount of agricultural land has decreased by over twenty-seven thousand acres since 2015 and that this is in part due to the aging of the agricultural workforce. Because younger generations in farming families are often reluctant to take over family farms, many farmlands in the State are at risk of falling fallow which could further compromise the State's food security. Your Committees further find that this measure effectively supports the process of transitioning agricultural businesses to the next generation through a succession planning education program developed by the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Your Committees have amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting an effective date of January 1, 2060, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism and Agriculture and Environment that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2805, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2805, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

> Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committees on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism and Agriculture and Environment,

MIKE GABBARD, Chair



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The Senate Thirty-Second Legislature State of Hawaiʻi

Record of Votes Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism EET

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral: Date:							
5B2805	EETLAEN, WAM 1-30-24							
The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.								
If so, then the previous decision was to:								
The Recommendation is:								
Pass, unamended Pass, with amendments Hold Recommit 2312 2311 2310 2313								
Members		Aye 🖊	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused			
DECOITE, Lynn (C)								
WAKAI, Glenn (VC)		\checkmark						
FUKUNAGA, Carol		V						
KIM, Donna Mercado		V /						
FEVELLA, Kurt		V		. <u> </u>				
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Recommendation:	/		-/	/				
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Chair's or Designee's Signature:								
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*Only <u>one</u> measure per Record of Votes								

The Senate Thirty-Second Legislature State of Hawaiʻi

Record of Votes Committee on Agriculture and Environment AEN

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral: EET/AEN, WAM								
The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to:									
The Recommendation is:									
Pass, unamended Pass, with amendments Hold Recommit 2312 2311 2310 2313									
Members		Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused				
GABBARD, Mike (C)		\times							
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim" (VC)		X							
DECOITE, Lynn		\times							
RHOADS, Karl		\times							
AWA, Brenton									
TOTAL		5	O	0	\bigcirc				
Recommendation:									
Chair's or Designee's Signature:									
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*Only one measure per Record of Votes