

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 03 2024

RE: S.R. No. 154

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

Sir:

Your Committee on Agriculture and Environment, to which was referred S.R. No. 154 entitled:

"SENATE RESOLUTION URGING THE STATE TO PROHIBIT THE INTRODUCTION OF BIOCONTROL AGENTS THAT MIGHT THREATEN ECONOMICALLY IMPORTANT FORAGE GRASS SPECIES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to urge the State to:

- (1) Prohibit the introduction of biocontrol agents that might threaten economically important forage grass species; and
- (2) Provide for the protection of Hawaii's rangelands and important forage grass species that sustain beef cattle production through funding policies, initiatives, and directives to state agencies to incentivize livestock grazing for the management of forage grasses and other vegetation on lands managed by the State and private sector that are currently undermanaged.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Agriculture; Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.; Larry Jefts Farms, LLC; Ponoholo Ranch; Hawai'i Farm Bureau, and three individuals.



Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Your Committee finds that many forage grasses were intentionally introduced into the State to support the beef cattle industry. Your Committee further finds that these forage grasses also provide important ground cover for the ecology of the State's rangelands. This measure aims to protect local livestock production and the environment of the State by preventing the eradication of these important forage grasses species.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Agriculture and Environment that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.R. No. 154 and recommends its adoption.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Agriculture and
Environment,



MIKE GABBARD, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Second Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
AEN

Bill / Resolution No.:* SR 154	Committee Referral: AEN	Date: 4/11/2024
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The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.
 If so, then the previous decision was to: _____

The Recommendation is:

Pass, unamended 2312 Pass, with amendments 2311 Hold 2310 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	3	0	0	2

Recommendation: Adopted Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature: 

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*Only one measure per Record of Votes