STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1314 -24

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 22 ' 2024

RE: S.B. No. 2960

S.D. 1 H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki Speaker, House of Representatives Thirty-Second State Legislature Regular Session of 2024 State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Agriculture & Food Systems and Water & Land, to which was referred S.B. No. 2960, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO FARMERS,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Clarify that agricultural lots shall be used for farming by requiring that purchasers and lessees of farm lots submit proof of using the lots to produce food or conduct other agricultural activities; and
- (2) Authorize certain agricultural cooperatives to apply for farm lots.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the Agribusiness Development Corporation; Hawai'i Farm Bureau; Hawaii Cattlemen's Council; and five individuals. Your Committees received comments on this measure from the Department of the Attorney General and Department of Agriculture.

Your Committees find that agricultural lands are a key resource that can be used to meet the State's goals for economic diversification and food self-sufficiency. However, nonfarming

use of agricultural lands has significantly increased over the past few decades. This measure ensures that agricultural lands are used primarily for productive agricultural purposes and further supports food sustainability in the State.

Your Committees have amended this measure by:

- (1) Exempting purchasers or lessees who experience significant economic hardship directly caused by a disaster from certain agriculture-related requirements;
- (2) Clarifying that an agricultural cooperative association may apply for a farm lot if at least fifty-one percent ownership interest is owned by one or more members who qualify as bona fide farmers;
- (3) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (4) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Agriculture & Food Systems and Water & Land that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2960, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2960, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committees on Agriculture & Food Systems and Water & Land,

LINDA ICHIYAMA, Chair

CEDRIC ASUEGA GATES. Chair

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Record of Votes of the Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

Bill/Resolution No.: SB2960 SD1	Committee Referral: AGR/WAL, F	Date	03/20/2	024				
☐ 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)				at the large				
3. COCHRAN, Elle				Maria San San San San San San San San San Sa				
	COUNTY OF STREET			To the second				
4. LOWEN, Nicole E.		ELIZENDEN DELLE	ng sa mining ang ang ang ang ang ang ang ang ang a					
5. PERRUSO, Amy A.								
J. TERRUSO, Amy A.			THE REPORT OF					
6. WOODSON, Justin H.			ge z ang mg i i deu (************************************					
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7. WARD, Gene				· /				
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TOTAL (7)	5			2				
The recommendation is: Adopted Not Adopted								
If joint referral, did not support recommendation.								
Vice Chair's or designee's signature								
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO								

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Record of Votes of the Committee on Water & Land

Bill/Resolution No.: (B2960 (D)	Committee Referra	I: L,FIN	Date:	03/20	124			
☐ 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)								
WAL Members		ves Ayes	(WR)	Nays	Excused			
1. ICHIYAMA, Linda (C)								
2. POEPOE, Mahina (VC)	<u> </u>		i					
3. CHUN, Cory M.		/	- Cale un dépend	200-200	C 1111 1111 1111 1111 1111 1111 1111 1			
4. GANADEN, Sonny								
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5. HASHEM, Mark J.				realization	(40)3104 (4.2.4)4 (2.2.4)			
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7. MORIKAWA, Dee				i en construit (S); a				
7. WORKAWA, Dec			Distriga de la como					
8. TAKAYAMA, Gregg			Harita & Alexania					
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9. SOUZA, Kanani	CHERNSON AS ANNUAL CANSON CONTROL							
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TOTAL (9)					2			
The recommendation is: Adopted If joint referral, did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s)								
Vice Chair's or designee's signature:								
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO								