

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

642

Honolulu, Hawaii

, 2025

FEB 14

RE: H.B. No. 1497

H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems, to which was referred H.B. No. 1497 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Require and appropriate funds for the Department of Agriculture to develop an online reporting tool to document applications of restricted use pesticides; and
- (2) Appropriate funds to convert temporary Environmental Health Specialist III positions into permanent positions.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Agriculture; Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition; Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action; and one individual. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association.

Your Committee finds that accurate and efficient reporting of restricted use pesticide applications is essential for ensuring regulatory compliance and protecting public health and the environment. While existing laws require users to submit annual

2025-1836 HB1497 HD1 HSCR HMSO



reports on restricted use pesticide usage, the Department of Agriculture has faced challenges in fully implementing an online reporting system due to staffing instability. This measure addresses these issues by establishing and appropriating funds for a permanent online reporting system, ensuring users have a streamlined and consistent method for submitting data. Additionally, converting temporary positions to permanent status will provide stability within the Department's Pesticides Branch, allowing for proper outreach and education to facilitate full implementation of the reporting tool.

Your Committee notes the suggestion to require restricted use pesticide usage to be reported in consistent units of measurement.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the number of authorized positions to unspecified numbers;
- (2) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (3) Making a technical, nonsubstantive amendment for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

Your Committee respectfully requests your Committee on Finance, should it deliberate on this measure, to consider converting two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) temporary Environmental Health Specialist III positions into two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) permanent Environmental Health Specialist III positions.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1497, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1497, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Finance.



Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Agriculture & Food
Systems,


KIRSTIN KAHALOA, Chair



HSCR 642

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 1497		Committee Referral: AGR, FIN		Date:	2/12/25
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.					
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)					
AGR Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused	
1. KAHALOA, Kirstin (C)	X				
2. KUSCH, Matthias (VC)	X				
3. LOWEN, Nicole E.	X				
4. PERRUSO, Amy A.	X				
5. QUINLAN, Sean	X				
6. WARD, Gene				X	
TOTAL (6)	5			1	
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. <small>(committee acronym(s))</small>					
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: _____					
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO					