

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 21 2025RE: H.B. No. 774
H.D. 2

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Economic Development and Tourism and
Agriculture and Environment, to which was referred H.B. No. 774,
H.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO VALUE-ADDED PRODUCTS,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish a Food and Product Innovation Network within
the Agribusiness Development Corporation; and
- (2) Require reports to the Legislature.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure
from the Department of Agriculture; Department of Business,
Economic Development, and Tourism; Agribusiness Development
Corporation; University of Hawai'i System; Hawai'i Farm Bureau;
Local Food Coalition; Hawaii Food Industry Association; Ulupono
Initiative; Hawai'i Forest Industry Association; Hawaii Food+
Policy; Maui Chamber of Commerce; and one individual.

Your Committees find that Hawaii's agricultural industry
faces a range of challenges, including limited processing
infrastructure, barriers to market entry, and dependence on
imported goods. Your Committees believe that innovative
initiatives across the State are needed to ensure that resources



are distributed equitably among counties, allowing for regional specialization and addressing the unique agricultural strengths and needs of each county. A statewide Food and Product Innovation Network, as established by this measure, would address these challenges by fostering collaboration, innovation, and value-added production across the State.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on 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 H.B. No. 774, H.D. 2, and recommend that it pass Second Reading and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

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



MIKE GABBARD, Chair



LYNN DECORTE, Chair



