

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

637

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 14 , 2025

RE: H.B. No. 775
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. 775 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL BIOSECURITY,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds to the Department of Agriculture for permanent positions in agricultural biosecurity established by Act 231, Session Laws of Hawaii 2024.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Agriculture; Hawaii Invasive Species Council; Hawai'i Farm Bureau; Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species; Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii; Larry Jefts Farms, LLC; Hawaii Cattlemen's Council; Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association; East Oahu County Farm Bureau; Maui County Farm Bureau; Carol Kwan Consulting, LLC; and five individuals.

Your Committee finds that invasive species pose a persistent and escalating threat to Hawaii's agriculture, environment, and economy. Act 231, Session Laws of Hawaii 2024, marked a significant step in strengthening the State's biosecurity infrastructure by increasing funding for essential programs and authorizing the hiring of forty-four essential positions within the Department of Agriculture. However, to ensure long-term effectiveness, these programs and positions must be made

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permanent. This measure addresses that need, ensuring that Hawaii remains resilient against invasive species.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting language to include unspecified amounts of funding for the following biosecurity programs within the Department of Agriculture: Risk Assessment, Pest Management Systems Approach, Brown Tree Snake Rapid Response, Pest Diagnostics, Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Response, Green Waste, Compost Reimbursement, Public Awareness Campaign, Little Fire Ants Response, Coqui Frog Response, Invasive Species Outreach, Tech Upgrades, Import Replacement Fund, Biosecurity Facility Planning, Rose-Ringed Parakeet, and Two-Lined Spittlebug;
- (2) Inserting an appropriation amount to support the program and necessary personnel;
- (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 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. 775, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 775, 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



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Bill/Resolution No.: HB 775		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. committee acronym(s)					
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: _____					
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO					