

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 12 2025

RE: S.B. No. 1158  
S.D. 1

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

Sir:

Your Committees on Higher Education and Agriculture and Environment, to which was referred S.B. No. 1158 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CONTROLLED-ENVIRONMENT AGRICULTURE,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds and appropriate funds for the development of a controlled-environment agriculture research and demonstration facility at the University of Hawaii at Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience's (CTAHR) Magoon research and teaching site in Manoa, Oahu.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the University of Hawai'i System, Hawai'i Farm Bureau, Maui County Farm Bureau, Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii, MetroGrow Hawaii, Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association, Hawaii Aquaculture and Aquaponics Association, and nine individuals.

Your Committees received comments on this measure from the Department of Agriculture and one individual.

Your Committees find that there is a need for a comprehensive approach to controlled-environment agriculture, which can be accomplished through the construction of a state-of-the-art



controlled-environment agriculture research and demonstration facility. Your Committees note that controlled-environment agriculture includes hydroponics, aquaponics, aeroponics, and vertical farming, which could offer efficient, sustainable, and climate-resilient solutions for food production in the State. Your Committees further find that the University of Hawaii at Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience Magoon research and teaching site in Manoa represents an ideal location for this facility to be established at commercial scale with research and teaching capabilities. Upon completion, the facility and associated activities will serve as a platform for research, extension, education, and demonstration activities to develop the next generation of researchers, industry leaders, and practitioners. This measure authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds and appropriates funds for the development of a controlled-environment agriculture research and demonstration facility to secure the future of agriculture in the State.

Your Committees have amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the name of the University of Hawaii at Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources to the University of Hawaii at Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience to reflect their name change;
- (2) Inserting an effective date of July 31, 2050, to encourage further discussion; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Higher Education and Agriculture and Environment that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 1158, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 1158, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.



Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committees on Higher Education  
and Agriculture and  
Environment,



MIKE GABBARD, Chair



DONNA MERCADO KIM, Chair



The Senate  
 Thirty-Third Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Higher Education**  
**HRE**

Bill / Resolution No.:* <b>SB 1158</b>	Committee Referral: <b>HRE/AEN, WAM</b>	Date: <b>1/30/2025</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
KIM, Donna Mercado (C)	✓			
KIDANI, Michelle N. (VC)				✓
FUKUNAGA, Carol	✓			
HASHIMOTO, Troy N.	✓			
FEVELLA, Kurt				✓
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
Distribution:             Original     Yellow     Pink     Goldenrod File with Committee Report     Clerk's Office     Drafting Agency     Committee File Copy				

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes

