

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 12 2025

RE: S.B. No. 1185  
S.D. 1

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

Sir:

Your Committee on Agriculture and Environment, to which was referred S.B. No. 1185 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish within the Department of Agriculture a working group to review and make recommendations on amending or repealing unnecessary or obsolete laws pertaining to agriculture; and
- (2) Appropriate funds.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the East O'ahu County Farm Bureau; Hawaii Agriculture Research Center; Hawai'i Farm Bureau; Hawai'i Farmers Union United; Hawaii Fish Company, Inc.; Hawai'i Food+ Policy; Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii; and four individuals.

Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Agriculture.

Your Committee finds that this measure, by establishing a working group within the Department of Agriculture, facilitates a comprehensive review of existing laws to identify and either amend



or repeal those that may be unnecessary or obsolete. This approach recognizes the evolving nature of the agricultural sector, which faces new challenges and opportunities that outdated laws may no longer address effectively.

Your Committee further finds that Hawaii's farmers and ranchers face significant regulatory challenges that can hinder agricultural growth and innovation. Many existing agricultural laws and regulations were established decades ago and may no longer align with the needs of modern farming practices, advancements in technology, and the State's goal of increasing local food production. A dedicated working group will provide an opportunity for agricultural stakeholders, policymakers, and regulatory agencies to collaborate in ensuring that the State's agricultural laws and policies are relevant, effective, and supportive of a resilient and sustainable food system.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Adding a representative of the Hawaii Farmers Union to the working group;
- (2) Inserting an effective date of July 1, 2050, to encourage further discussion; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Agriculture and Environment that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 1185, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 1185, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.



Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Agriculture and  
Environment,



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MIKE GABBARD, Chair



The Senate  
 Thirty-Third Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Agriculture and Environment**  
**AEN**

Bill / Resolution No.:* <b>SB1185</b>	Committee Referral: <b>AEN, WAM</b>	Date: <b>2/7/25</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				
<b>Members</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Aye (WR)</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Excused</b>
GABBARD, Mike (C)	✓			
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim" (VC)				✓
DECOITE, Lynn	✓			
RHOADS, Karl	✓			
AWA, Brenton	✓			
<b>TOTAL</b>	4	0	0	1
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <span style="font-family: cursive; font-size: 1.2em;">Karl Rhoads</span>				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original     Yellow     Pink     Goldenrod File with Committee Report     Clerk's Office     Drafting Agency     Committee File Copy				

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes