

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 28 2025

RE: S.B. No. 1582

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. 1582 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE COCONUT TREE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to recognize the coconut palm tree as a sustainable, staple food source in the State.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Hawai'i Farm Bureau, Kuahu Auna O Puna, Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, Pōhaku Pelemaka, Hānai Kaiāulu, Hawai'i Food+ Policy, and thirteen individuals.

Your Committee finds that the coconut palm tree is considered a naturalized Polynesian canoe plant and has been grown in Hawaii for thousands of years. Your Committee recognizes that different parts of the coconut palm, or niu in Hawaiian, can be used for a myriad of uses, including food and emergency drinking water, cosmetic oil, kitchenware, containers, cordage, and construction material. According to testimony received by your Committee, the niu is a drought- and salt-tolerant species that plays a key role in coastal stabilization, erosion control, and carbon sequestration, and its cultivation can support local food production, reduce reliance on imported goods, and enhance food sovereignty. Establishing, designating, and recognizing the



coconut palm tree as a sustainable, staple food source in the State aligns with the State's goals for food security, environmental stewardship, and cultural preservation. This measure seeks to bring awareness to the significance of the coconut palm tree in the State to maximize its production and cultivation.

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. 1582 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

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



MIKE GABBARD, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
AEN

Bill / Resolution No.:* <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">SB 1582</div>	Committee Referral: <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">AEN</div>	Date: <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">2/26/25</div>		
<div><input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____</div>				
The Recommendation is: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-start;"><div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313</div></div>				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
GABBARD, Mike (C)	<div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">X</div>			
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim" (VC)	<div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">X</div>			
DECOITE, Lynn	<div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">X</div>			
RHOADS, Karl	<div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">X</div>			
AWA, Brenton	<div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">X</div>			
TOTAL	<div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">5</div>	-	-	-
Recommendation: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"><div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted</div></div>				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive; text-align: center;">H. Richards III</div>				
Distribution: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: 0.8em;"><div>Original File with Committee Report</div><div>Yellow Clerk's Office</div><div>Pink Drafting Agency</div><div>Goldenrod Committee File Copy</div></div>				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes