

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 04 2025

RE: S.B. No. 251

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. 251 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Require the Department of Agriculture to adopt rules and implement an Invasive Species Placard Program for plant nurseries; and
- (2) Allow the counties to adopt an Invasive Species Placard Program if the Department does not implement the Program by an unspecified date.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the O'ahu Invasive Species Committee, Hawai'i Farmers Union United, Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species, Sierra Club of Hawai'i, and nineteen individuals.

Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Agriculture, Hawai'i Invasive Species Council, and Hawai'i Farm Bureau.

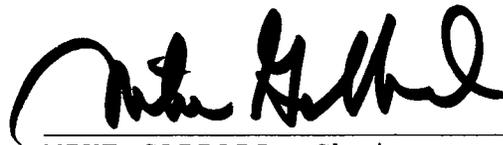
Your Committee finds that the nursery trade is one of the primary pathways through which invasive pests are spread around the State. Your Committee notes that existing law does not



expressly prohibit the sale of nursery stock or other material that is infested with an invasive pest. According to testimony received by your Committee, the placard system proposed in this measure follows the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point model used in Australia and New Zealand to prevent or address priority pests and is the best available way to ensure that local nurseries have, and use, the most current pest information and relevant best management practices related to invasive species. This measure seeks to encourage responsible and proactive prevention and control by local nurseries, facilitate interventions by the Department of Agriculture to prevent and address infestations, and allow consumers to make better informed decisions about the risks of purchasing and transporting infested plants or other nursery stock.

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. 251 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to your Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection and 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>SB251</b>	Committee Referral: <b>AEM, CPN/WAM</b>	Date: <b>1/29/25</b>
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The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.  
 If so, then the previous decision was to: \_\_\_\_\_

The Recommendation is:

Pass, unamended 2312     
  Pass, with amendments 2311     
  Hold 2310     
  Recommit 2313

Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
GABBARD, Mike (C)	✓			
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim" (VC)				✓
DECOITE, Lynn	✓			
RHOADS, Karl	✓			
AWA, Brenton	✓			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

Recommendation:     
 Adopted     
 Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature: *Karl Rhoads*

Distribution:     
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\*Only one measure per Record of Votes