

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1408

Honolulu, Hawaii
MAR 21, 2025

RE: S.B. No. 739
S.D. 2
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 S.B. No. 739, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO LAND EXCHANGE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Allow the Governor to negotiate land exchanges, subject to approval by the Board of Land and Natural Resources, to acquire lands that are suitable for long-term diversified agricultural production in exchange for land for private affordable, workforce, or other housing development; and
- (2) Require the Governor to submit a report to the Legislature prior to the Regular Session of 2026.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Agribusiness Development Corporation; Hawaii Food+ Policy; Hawai'i Farm Bureau; and one individual. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from one individual. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources and Office of Hawaiian Affairs.



Your Committee finds that Hawaii's shift away from plantation agriculture has left vast tracts of former sugar and pineapple lands unused, while the State simultaneously faces a severe shortage of affordable and workforce housing. This measure establishes a framework for the State to negotiate land exchanges that align with agricultural sustainability and housing development needs, ensuring efficient land use for public benefit.

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 S.B. No. 739, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Agriculture & Food
Systems,


KIRSTIN KAHALOA, Chair



HSCR 1408

Bill/Resolution No.: SB 739, SD2, HD1	Committee Referral: WAL, AGR, FIN	Date: 3/19/25		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input 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.				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: _____				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				