

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 11 2025RE: S.B. No. 865
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 Higher Education, to which was referred
S.B. No. 865 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to appropriate funds for the establishment of a permanent Educational Support Associate position within the University of Hawaii at Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience's Kona Cooperate Extension and Applied Research Program to provide administrative, professional, and technical support to the college's Cooperative Extension Program and Kona Research Station.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the University of Hawai'i system; Hawai'i Farm Bureau; Hawai'i Farmers Union United; Synergistic Hawai'i Agriculture Council; Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association; Hawaii Tropical Fruit Growers; Kau Coffee Growers Cooperative; Covfefe Coffee Farm LLC; Waimea Coffee Farm LLC; Bea's Knees Farm LLC; Kauai Coffee Company LLC; Hawaii Coffee Growers Association; Kealia Ranch; Konaloha Farms; Giggie Hill Coffee; and fifteen individuals.

Your Committee finds that the University of Hawaii at Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience's (CTAHR) Cooperative Extension Program seeks to provide non-formal science-based education; act as the outreach component of CTAHR;



extend practical applications of science to support local food systems, healthy living, youth development; and the stewardship of natural resources for future generations. Your Committee further finds that CTAHR's Kona Cooperative Extension, which houses the Kona Research Station, provides crucial support for local coffee farmers, who currently face dire threats from coffee leaf rust and the recently discovered coffee berry borer. Your Committee notes that the Kona Research Station encompasses eighteen acres of projects related to coffee, including coffee leaf rust and coffee berry borer mitigation. Your Committee also finds that although the coffee industry represents the State's most valuable agricultural commodity, only one CTAHR extension agent serves the industry statewide. This measure establishes a permanent Educational Support Associate position within CTAHR's Kona Cooperative Extension, to provide much needed support to faculty and local farmers.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the name of CTAHR from the College of Agriculture and Human Resources to College of Agriculture and Human Resilience, to reflect its recent name change;
- (2) Changing the appropriation to an unspecified amount; and
- (3) Inserting an effective date of July 31, 2050, to encourage further discussion.

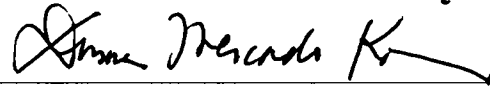
Your Committee notes that this measure, as amended, contains an unspecified appropriation amount. Should your Committee on Ways and Means choose to deliberate on this measure, your Committee respectfully requests that it consider inserting an appropriation amount of \$76,750 for the establishment of a permanent Educational Support Associate position within the University of Hawaii at Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience's Kona Cooperative Extension.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Higher Education that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 865, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second



Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 865, S.D. 1, and
be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Higher Education,



DONNA MERCADO KIM, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Higher Education
HRE

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:
SB 865	HRE, WAM	3/30/2025
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____		
The Recommendation is: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313 </div> </div>		
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)
KIM, Donna Mercado (C)	✓	
KIDANI, Michelle N. (VC)		
FUKUNAGA, Carol	/	
HASHIMOTO, Troy N.	/	
FEVELLA, Kurt	/	
TOTAL	4	0
Recommendation: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 5px;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted </div>		
Chair's or Designee's Signature:		
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: small;"> <div>Distribution:</div> <div>Original</div> <div>Yellow</div> <div>Pink</div> <div>Goldenrod</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: x-small;"> <div>File with Committee Report</div> <div>Clerk's Office</div> <div>Drafting Agency</div> <div>Committee File Copy</div> </div>		

*Only one measure per Record of Votes