

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

781

Honolulu, Hawaii

**FEB 27 2025**

RE: 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 Ways and Means, to which was referred S.B. No. 865, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to support local coffee farmers and agricultural activities in the Kona area.

Specifically, this measure appropriates moneys to establish a permanent educational support associate position within the Kona Cooperative Extension of the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience.

Your Committee received written comments in support of this measure from the Department of Agriculture, University of Hawaii System, Hawaii Farm Bureau, Kona Farms, Hawaii Tropical Fruit Growers, Bea's Knees Farm, Hawaii Coffee Growers Association, Heavenly Hawaiian Farms, Rusty's Hawaiian, Kuaiwi Farm, Kau Coffee Growers Cooperative, Island Harvest Inc., Kai Ikena Orchards, Puna Chocolate, Hawaii Coffee Association, Hawaii Food+ Policy, and thirty individuals.

Your Committee finds that the Kona Cooperative Extension houses the Kona Research Station, which provides crucial support for local coffee farmers statewide, including projects relating to coffee leaf rust and coffee berry borer mitigation. Your

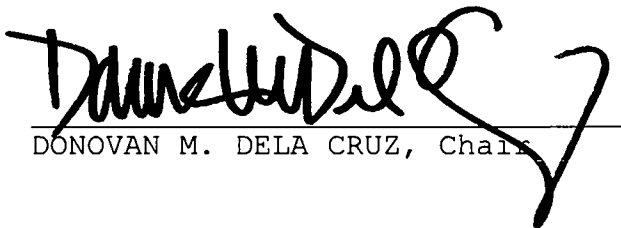


Committee further finds that the permanent educational support associate position established by this measure will support this important work and enable the prioritization of research and community outreach projects throughout the State.

Your Committee notes the testimony of the University of Hawaii, which stated that, instead of establishing an administrative, professional, and technical staff position, it would be more advantageous to establish an extension agent position that focuses on coffee and other orchard crops with export potential such as macadamia nuts, cacao, and tea, to meet the needs of these crop growers in the region and statewide.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Ways and Means that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 865, S.D. 1, and recommends that it pass Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Ways and Means,

  
DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, Chair



The Senate  
Thirty-Third Legislature  
State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Ways and Means**  
**WAM**

Bill / Resolution No.:* <b>SB8865 SD1</b>	Committee Referral: <b>HRE, WAM</b>	Date: <b>2-19-2025</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: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312</div> <div style="text-align: center;"><input 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>				
<b>Members</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Aye (WR)</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Excused</b>
DELA CRUZ, Donovan M. (C)	X			
MORIWAKI, Sharon Y. (VC)	X			
AQUINO, Henry J.C.	X			
DECOITE, Lynn	X			
ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C.	X			
HASHIMOTO, Troy N.	X			
INOUE, Lorraine R.	X			
KANUHA, Dru Mamo	X			
KIDANI, Michelle N.	X			
KIM, Donna Mercado	X			
LEE, Chris	X			
WAKAI, Glenn	X			
FEVELLA, Kurt	X			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: small;"> <div style="text-align: center;">Distribution: Original File with Committee Report</div> <div style="text-align: center;">Yellow Clerk's Office</div> <div style="text-align: center;">Pink Drafting Agency</div> <div style="text-align: center;">Goldenrod Committee File Copy</div> </div>				

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes