

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1400

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 31 2025

RE: S.R. No. 118

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Water and Land, to which was referred S.R. No. 118 entitled:

"SENATE RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO TRANSFER ACTIVE AGRICULTURAL LAND LEASES UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO SUPPORT AGRICULTURE IN THE STATE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to request the Department of Land and Natural Resources to transfer active agricultural land leases under the jurisdiction of the Department of Land and Natural Resources to the Department of Agriculture to support agriculture in the State.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.; Hawai'i Farm Bureau; Kapapala Ranch; Ponoholo Ranch; SC Ranch Company, Inc.; Barbed S Ranch; Kealia Ranch; and eight individuals.

Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources and one individual.

Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Agriculture.



Your Committee finds that Act 90, Session Laws of Hawaii 2003, was passed to ensure the long-term productive use of public lands leased or available to be leased by the Department of Land and Natural Resources for agricultural purposes by authorizing the Department of Agriculture to accept the transfer and management of these lands upon mutual agreement and approval between the Board of Agriculture and the Board of Land and Natural Resources. Your Committee further finds that there are lands for agricultural purposes that the Department of Land and Natural Resources have not yet transferred to the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Land and Natural Resources does not plan to renew these leases for agricultural purposes at the end of their lease terms. Accordingly, this measure requests the Department of Land and Natural Resources to transfer certain active agricultural land leases under its jurisdiction to the Department of Agriculture to support agriculture in the State.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Water and Land that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.R. No. 118 and recommends its adoption.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Water and Land,


LORRAINE R. INOUE, Chair



