

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 02 2025

RE: S.R. No. 71

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.R. No. 71 entitled:

"SENATE RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO ESTABLISH AND ADMINISTER A MICROBIAL ALGAE SOIL PRODUCTS PILOT PROGRAM,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Request the Department of Agriculture to establish and administer a Microbial Algae Soil Products Pilot Program (Pilot Program) that introduces microbial algae on agricultural lands in the State to address agricultural soil health while improving nutrient cycling, reducing fertilizer dependency, and enhancing overall soil health; and
- (2) Request the Department of Agriculture to submit a report to the Legislature prior to the Regular Sessions of 2026 and 2027.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Agriculture.

Your Committee finds that ensuring the overall health of soil is imperative to achieve the State's food resiliency and self-sufficiency goals. Your Committee further finds that recent



microbial algae soil products are an innovative and low-risk agricultural method suitable for the State's unique natural environment. Your Committee believes that the adoption of microbial algae-based fertilizers is a sustainable and cost-effective solution for the continued growth of the State's agricultural industry that also ensures the safety of local produce and products for consumption.

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 concurs with the intent and purpose of S.R. No. 71 and recommends its adoption.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Agriculture and
Environment,



MIKE GABBARD, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Third Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
AEN

Bill / Resolution No.:* SR 71	Committee Referral: AEN	Date: 03-17-25
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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)	X			
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim" (VC)	X			
DECOITE, Lynn	X			
RHOADS, Karl	X			
AWA, Brenton	X			
TOTAL	5			

Recommendation: Adopted Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature:


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*Only one measure per Record of Votes