

Honolulu, Hawaii

**FEB 04**

, 2026

RE: H.B. No. 1603  
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2026  
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems, to which was  
referred H.B. No. 1603 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL PARK LEASES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to repeal the requirement for  
land covered by an agricultural park lease with a remaining term  
of fifteen years or less to be located in a county having a  
population of less than five hundred thousand for the Department  
of Agriculture and Biosecurity to extend the lease.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure  
from Ahiki Acres, LLC; Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery  
Association; Hawai'i Farm Bureau; Agriculture Stewardship Hawai'i;  
Hawai'i Farmers Union United; East Oahu County Farm Bureau; Hawaii  
Cattlemen's Council; and four individuals. Your Committee  
received comments on this measure from the Department of  
Agriculture and Biosecurity.

Your Committee finds that the existing population-based  
restriction on extending agricultural park leases with a remaining  
term of fewer than fifteen years creates unnecessary limitations  
and inconsistencies in lease administration. Farmers in counties  
with a population greater than 500,000 are disproportionately  
impacted, as they face higher land costs, greater development



pressure, and limited access to agricultural land. This measure repeals the population-based restriction and will allow the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to manage agricultural park leases more equitably statewide and better support the long-term viability of agricultural operations.

Your Committee has amended this measure by changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion.

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 H.B. No. 1603, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1603, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Water & Land.

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CORY CHUN, Chair

Jtsc 6-26

Bill/Resolution No.: HB1603		Committee Referral: AGR, WAL, JHA		Date: 1/30/26
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" 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. CHUN, Cory M. (C)	✓			
2. KUSCH, Matthias (VC)	✓			
3. KAHALOA, Kirstin	✓			
4. LOWEN, Nicole E.	✓			
5. PERRUSO, Amy A.	✓			
6. QUINLAN, Sean	✓			
7. MATSUMOTO, Lauren	✓			
TOTAL (7)	7			
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral _____ did not support recommendation. _____ committee acronym(s)				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: _____				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee    Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office    Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				