STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2479

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 20 2026

RE: S.B. No. 2350
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Agriculture and Environment and Economic Development and Tourism, to which was referred S.B. No. 2350 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURE,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

(1) Transfer oversight of the Aquaculture and Livestock Support Services Branch of the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to the Agribusiness Development Corporation; and

(2) Transfer the Agricultural Development Division of the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawaii Aquaculture and Aquaponics Association and HIplan.

Your Committees received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity; Hawaii Farm Bureau; Animal Rights Hawai'i; and Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

Your Committees received comments on this measure from the Agribusiness Development Corporation and Department of Research and Development of the County of Hawai‘i.

Your Committees find that the Agricultural Development Division is responsible for agricultural marketing and statistics. Additionally, the Aquaculture and Livestock Support Services Branch provides support for aquaculture and livestock businesses through planning, coordination, counseling, and information. Your Committees believe that both agencies provide critical services for the agriculture industry in the State. As the State works to urgently increase local food production, it is increasingly clear that technical and regulatory support alone is not sufficient and depends on clear governance, consistent oversight, and long-term certainty.

Your Committees further find that producers, particularly in aquaculture and livestock, also require coordinated business development capacity, including market analysis, infrastructure planning, capital formation, and public-private partnership development. The Agribusiness Development Corporation's statutory mission and operating model are uniquely suited to deliver this integrated approach. As the Agribusiness Development Corporation already administers certain land and leases for aquaculture operations, this measure will directly support and strengthen the agriculture industry in the State.

Your Committees acknowledge the concerns raised in the testimony of the Agribusiness Development Corporation regarding the measure's mission of strengthening aquaculture industry development rather than regulatory oversight and enforcement. Therefore, amendments to this measure are necessary to address this concern.

Accordingly, your Committees have amended this measure by:

(1) Inserting language that requires all regulatory authority related to animal health, biosecurity enforcement, inspections, and permitting compliance currently performed by the Agricultural Development Division and Aquaculture and Livestock Support Services Branch to remain under the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity; and

(2) Inserting an effective date of July 1, 2050, to encourage further discussion.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Agriculture and Environment and Economic Development and Tourism that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2350, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2350, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committees on Agriculture and Environment and Economic Development and Tourism,

LYNN DECOITE, Chair

MIKE GABBARD, Chair

The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
AEN

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:
SB 2350	AEN/EDT, WAM	2-6-26

☐ 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	4	1	—	—

Recommendation: ☒ Adopted ☐ Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature: [signature]

Distribution: Original — File with Committee Report; Yellow — Committee; Pink — Drafting Agency

*Only one measure per Record of Votes

Revised: 01/02/26

The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Economic Development and Tourism
EDT

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:
SB 2350	AEN/EDT, WAM	02/06/26

☐ 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
DECOITE, Lynn (C)	✓			
WAKAI, Glenn (VC)	✓			
FUKUNAGA, Carol				✓
KIM, Donna Mercado	✓			
FEVELLA, Kurt	✓			
TOTAL	4	Ø	Ø	1

Recommendation: ☑ Adopted ☐ Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature:

Distribution: Original — File with Committee Report; Yellow — Committee; Pink — Drafting Agency

*Only one measure per Record of Votes

Revised: 01/02/26