

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 3834

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 16 2026

RE: GOV. MSG. NO. 771

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

Sir:

Your Committee on Agriculture and Environment, to which was referred Governor's Message No. 771, submitting for study and consideration the nomination of:

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND BIOSECURITY

G.M. No. 771 JAMES GOMES
for a term to expire 06-30-2030,

begs leave to report as follows:

Your Committee reviewed the personal history, resume, and statement submitted by James Gomes for service on the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

Your Committee received testimony in support of the nomination for the reappointment of James Gomes from the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity; Hawai'i Farm Bureau; Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.; Maui County Farm Bureau; Kualoa Ranch; Caires Farms; and fourteen individuals.

Upon review of the testimony, your Committee finds that Mr. Gomes's experience, background, and commitment to public service qualify him for reappointment to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity as an at-large member. Your Committee notes that Mr. Gomes has over two decades of experience in agriculture and is currently a consultant to Ulupalakua Ranch after retiring as their Operations Ranch Manager in 2021 following eighteen years of service. Mr. Gomes has previously served as President and Vice President of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, and is currently a member of the Maui Cattlemen's Association. Mr. Gomes has also

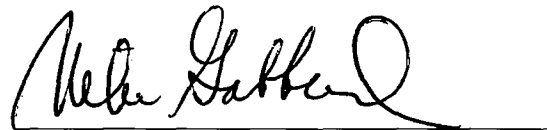
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volunteered with the Maui Liquor Commission and as a member of the Board of Land and Natural Resources representing Maui Island. Your Committee further notes that since his initial appointment to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity in 2022, Mr. Gomes has provided valuable insight and a perspective that reflects his practical understanding of balancing agricultural production with conservation and resource stewardship and ensures that the voice of working farmers and ranchers remains represented in statewide decision-making. Your Committee therefore recommends that James Gomes be reappointed to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity based on his knowledge, experience, and commitment to public service.

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, after full consideration of the background, experience, and qualifications of the nominee, has found the nominee to be qualified for the position to which nominated and recommends that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination.

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
Advise and Consent

Governor's Message No.:* <i>GM 771</i>	Committee Referral: AEN	Date: <i>3-30-26</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its decision.				
The Recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advise and Consent 2340 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Advise and Consent 2345				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
GABBARD, Mike (C)	✓			
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim" (VC)				✓
DECOITE, Lynn				✓
RHOADS, Karl	✓			
AWA, Brenton	✓			
TOTAL	3	0	0	2
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <i>Karl Rhoads</i>				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink File with Committee Report Committee Drafting Agency				

*Only one Governor's Message per Record of Votes