

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 06 , 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 Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred H.B. No. 1603, H.D. 1, 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 in order for the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to extend the lease.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from Agriculture Stewardship Hawai'i; Hawai'i Farm Bureau; Hilo County Farm Bureau; Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.; East O'ahu County Farm Bureau; Maui County Farm Bureau; Ahiki Acres, LLC; Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association; Waimanalo Agricultural Association; and three individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

Your Committee finds that long-term lease stability is essential to the viability of agricultural park operations and to supporting sustained agricultural production. Repealing the county population requirement promotes uniform application of lease term eligibility statewide, while preserving the Department



of Agriculture and Biosecurity's discretion to manage agricultural park leases.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1603, H.D. 1, and recommends that it pass Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Judiciary &
Hawaiian Affairs,



DAVID A. TARNAS, Chair



