

Honolulu, Hawaii

**MAR 30 2026**

RE: H.B. No. 2548  
H.D. 1  
S.D. 1

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 H.B. No. 2548, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish the Climate-Resilient Food Systems Grant Program within the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity; and
- (2) Appropriate funds.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity; Hawai'i Farm Bureau; Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.; Kauai Climate Action Coalition; 350Hawaii; Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action; Kanalani Ohana Farm; Hawai'i Climate Future Forum; and twenty-three individuals.

Your Committee finds that the agriculture industry in the State faces growing threats from climate-related factors, including extreme weather events, prolonged droughts, rising temperatures, and shifting pest and disease patterns. Many local farmers and ranchers are struggling to secure the financial

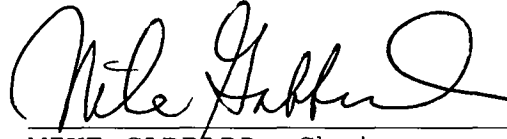


support necessary to invest in climate-resilient infrastructure, including special purpose equipment and technology. By addressing this financial barrier, this measure will further the State's goal of supporting agricultural producers and achieving food security and self-sufficiency.

Your Committee has amended this measure by inserting an effective date of July 1, 2050, to encourage further discussion.

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 is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2548, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2548, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

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




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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:
HB2548, HDI	AEN, WAM	3-23-26
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____		
The Recommendation is:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> 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	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>
Recommendation:		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> 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