

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 3156

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 24 2026

RE: H.B. No. 2595
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. 2595, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO REGIONAL AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PRODUCTION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish the Regional Agricultural Feasibility and Food Systems Production Studies Working Group within the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to provide coordinated, region-specific agricultural production and crop feasibility analysis across the State;
- (2) Require reports to the Legislature; and
- (3) Appropriate funds.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity, Hawai'i Farm Bureau, Chamber of Commerce Hawaii, Hawai'i Farmers Union United, Hawaii Food Industry Association, Maui Chamber of Commerce, Retail Merchants of Hawai'i, and two individuals.



Your Committee received comments on this measure from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience.

Your Committee finds that agricultural production in the State varies significantly by island, elevation, climate, and available resources, and effective planning must reflect these on-the-ground realities rather than a one-size-fits-all approach. Without region-specific analysis, the State risks setting demand targets that local producers are structurally unable to meet. Your Committee further finds that a framework is necessary to evaluate what crops can be grown competitively in each region, what capital investments are required, and how supply can realistically scale to meet institutional demand from schools, hospitals, correctional facilities, and other purchasers. Therefore, this measure represents a thoughtful step toward more informed decision-making that can better guide future investments in agriculture, infrastructure, and food systems planning.

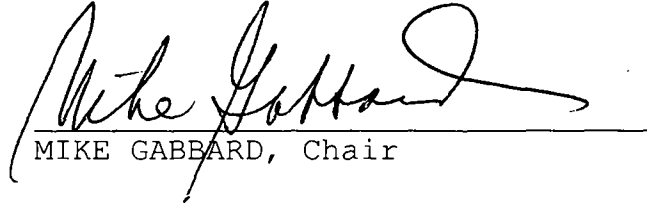
Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting an effective date of July 1, 2050, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) Making a technical, nonsubstantive amendment for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

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. 2595, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2595, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.



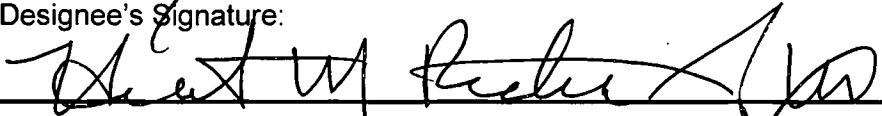
Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Agriculture and
Environment,


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: | | |
| HB 2595, HD1. | AEN, WAM | 3-16-26 | | |
| <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 |
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| TOTAL | 4 | | | 1 |
| Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted | | | | |
| Chair's or Designee's Signature:  | | | | |
| Distribution: Original Yellow Pink File with Committee Report Committee Drafting Agency | | | | |

*Only one measure per Record of Votes