

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2617

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 20 2026

RE: S.B. No. 1178
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 Water, Land, Culture and the Arts and Agriculture and Environment, to which was referred S.B. No. 1178 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CARBON SEQUESTRATION INCENTIVES,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to codify and make permanent the Hawaii Carbon Smart Land Management Assistance Program under the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission; Climate Protectors Hawai'i; Imua Alliance; Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.; Hawai'i Forest Association; and one individual.

Your Committees find that the Hawaii Carbon Smart Land Management Assistance Pilot Program (Pilot Program) established by Act 185, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022, received engagement from a vast swath of the agricultural community including local farmers, farmer networks, ranchers, foresters, agroecologists, grassroots and local non-profit organizations, community groups, schools, private land managers, ecologists, and businesses. While the Pilot Program was considered a success, it concluded in 2025. By making the Program a permanent program, this measure will support



sustainable land management, regenerative agriculture, and food sovereignty for the State.

Your Committees have amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the appropriation amount from \$2,000,000 to an unspecified amount to encourage further discussion;
- (2) Updating dates to reflect the current legislative session;
- (3) Inserting an effective date of July 1, 2050, to encourage further discussion; and
- (4) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts and Agriculture and Environment that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 1178, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 1178, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Water, Land,
Culture and the Arts and
Agriculture and Environment,

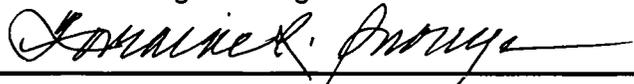

MIKE GABBARD, Chair


CHRIS LEE, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Third Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts
WLA

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 1178	Committee Referral: WLA/AEN, WAM	Date: 2-11-2026		
<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
LEE, Chris (C)	✓			
INOUYE, Lorraine R. (VC)		✓		
CHANG, Stanley	✓			
LAMOSAO, Rachele	✓			
DECORTE, Samantha	✓			
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**

