

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2233

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 13 2026

RE: S.B. No. 2097
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 S.B. No. 2097 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; Department of Research and Development of the County of Hawai'i; one member of the Hawai'i County Council; Hawai'i Farm Bureau; Hawai'i Farmers Union United; Hawaii Cattlemen's Council Inc.; Mālama Kaua'i; Kauai Climate Action Coalition; Climate Protectors Hawaii; Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action; 350Hawaii; Restore the Commons; Agriculture Stewardship Hawai'i; and forty-four individuals.

Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Libertarian Party of Hawaii.



Your Committee finds that the State's agricultural sector faces growing threats from climate change that include extreme weather events, prolonged droughts, rising temperatures, and shifting pest and disease patterns, threatening both short-term crop yields and long-term agricultural viability. Special equipment and training are necessary to implement innovative practices and infrastructure improvements to strengthen climate resiliency. Your Committee concludes that in order to support climate adaptive food systems, this measure, which provides funding to farmers and ranchers, is critical for the future success of agriculture in the State.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Specifying that grant moneys may be used for certain costs associated with project development, implementation, and evaluation;
- (2) Clarifying that to obtain a grant, an applicant shall include a detailed description of each climate adaptation technology or practice that will be utilized by the applicant for the project;
- (3) Requiring the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to adopt rules to develop criteria for what qualifies as "climate adaptation, resiliency, and food system infrastructure" for the purposes of obtaining moneys through the grant program;
- (4) Inserting an effective date of July 1, 2050, to encourage further discussion; and
- (5) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments 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 S.B. No. 2097, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2097, 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Gabbard", written over a horizontal line.

MIKE GABBARD, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Third Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
AEN

Bill / Resolution No.:* <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">SB 2097</div>	Committee Referral: <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">AEN, WAM</div>	Date: <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">01/28/26</div>
---	--	--

The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.
 If so, then the previous decision was to: _____

The Recommendation is:

Pass, unamended 2312
 Pass, with amendments 2311
 Hold 2310
 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			
TOTAL	5	—	—	—

Recommendation: Adopted 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**