

Honolulu, Hawaii

**APR 29 2026**

RE: S.B. No. 2153  
 S.D. 2  
 H.D. 1  
 C.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
 President of the Senate  
 Thirty-Third State Legislature  
 Regular Session of 2026  
 State of Hawaii

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura  
 Speaker, House of Representatives  
 Thirty-Third State Legislature  
 Regular Session of 2026  
 State of Hawaii

Sir and Madam:

Your Committee on Conference on the disagreeing vote of the Senate to the amendments proposed by the House of Representatives in S.B. No. 2153, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURE,"

having met, and after full and free discussion, has agreed to recommend and does recommend to the respective Houses the final passage of this bill in an amended form.

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Require the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to convene a Bona Fide Farmer Working Group to develop multi-tiered, matrix-based definitions for the terms "bona fide farmer" and "bona fide agricultural activity"; and
- (2) Require a report to the Legislature.

Your Committee on Conference finds that there are numerous policies, programs, and land use designations that require clarity surrounding the terms "bona fide farmer" and "bona fide agricultural



activity", which are not uniformly standardized or defined, creating challenges for policymakers, agencies, and counties tasked with implementing those programs fairly and consistently. This measure represents the State's commitment to a collaborative process that will help ensure that any resulting policy framework reflects the diversity of statewide agricultural operations and support the State's efforts to preserve land for legitimate commercial agriculture.

Your Committee on Conference has amended this measure by:

- (1) Making it effective on July 1, 2026; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

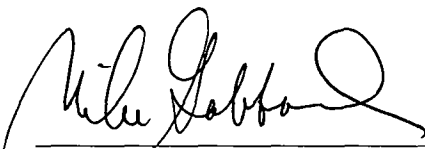
As affirmed by the record of votes of the managers of your Committee on Conference that is attached to this report, your Committee on Conference is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2153, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Final Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2153, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, C.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted on behalf  
of the managers:

ON THE PART OF THE HOUSE

ON THE PART OF THE SENATE

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CORY HUMMER  
Co-Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
MIKE GABBARD  
Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
MATTHIAS KUSCH  
Co-Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
HERBERT M. RICHARDS, III  
Co-Chair



Hawai'i State Legislature

Record of Votes of a  
Conference Committee

CLR 32-26

Bill / Concurrent Resolution No.: <b>SB 2153, SD 2, HD 1</b>	Date/Time: 4/28/26 @ 9:33am
---	--------------------------------

The recommendation of the House and Senate managers is to pass with amendments (CD).

The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision.

<input type="checkbox"/> The recommendation of the Senate Manager(s) is to AGREE to the House amendments made to the Senate Measure	<input type="checkbox"/> The recommendation of the House Manager(s) is to AGREE to the Senate amendments made to the House Measure.
---	---

Senate Managers	A	WR	N	E	House Managers	A	WR	N	E
GABBARD, Mike, Chr.	✓	✓			CHUN, Cory M., Co-Chr.	✓			
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim", Co-Chr.	✓	✓			KUSCH, Matthias, Co-Chr.	✓			
DECOITE, Lynn	✓				KAHALOA, Kirstin	✓			
					MATSUMOTO, Lauren	✓			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

A = Aye      WR = Aye with Reservations      N = Nay      E = Excused

Senate Recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted	House Recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted
---	--

Senate Lead Chair's or Designee's Signature: 	House Lead Chair's or Designee's Signature: 
--	---

**Distribution:**      **Original**      **Yellow**      **Pink**      **Goldenrod**  
 File with Conference Committee Report      House Clerk's Office      Senate Clerk's Office      Drafting Agency