

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **2587**

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 20 2026

RE: S.B. No. 2320
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 Education and Agriculture and Environment,
to which was referred S.B. No. 2320 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURE,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish the Kuleana AgTech Pathways Program to create career pipelines in the fields of agriculture and agricultural technology;
- (2) Require the University of Hawaii to collaborate with the Department of Education, Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity, Agribusiness Development Corporation, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, and appropriate community organizations to develop and administer the program;
- (3) Require reports to the Legislature; and
- (4) Appropriate funds.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, Agribusiness Development



Corporation, Hawai'i Farm Bureau, Local Food Coalition, Hawai'i Food+ Policy, and thirteen individuals.

Your Committees received comments on this measure from the Department of Education.

Your Committees find that the State's agricultural industry faces continuous workforce shortages and an aging farmer population. The State's ability to increase food production, strengthen climate resilience, and modernize agriculture therefore depends on building a workforce pipeline that is visible, attainable, and aligned with real jobs. Other states, including Connecticut and California, have demonstrated the manifold benefits of enacting sustained, structured training pathways for agricultural careers. This measure will support the long-term viability of local food production, biosecurity efforts, and economic resilience.

Your Committees have amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting an effective date of July 1, 2050, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) 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 Education and Agriculture and Environment that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2320, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2320, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Education and
Agriculture and Environment,



MIKE GABBARD, Chair



DONNA MERCADO KIM, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Third Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Education
EDU

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SB 2320	EDU/AEN, WAM	02/18/26		
<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
KIM, Donna Mercado (C)	/			
KIDANI, Michelle N. (VC)				/
FUKUNAGA, Carol				/
HASHIMOTO, Troy N.	//			
DECORTE, Samantha	//			
TOTAL	3	2	2	2
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

The Senate
 Thirty-Third Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
AEN

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SB2320	EDU/AEN, WAM	2-18-26		
<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
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				

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