

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **2755**

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 05 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 Committee on Ways and Means, to which was referred S.B. No. 2320, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to strengthen the State's agricultural workforce.

More specifically, this measure:

- (1) Establishes the Kuleana AgTech Pathways Program at the University of Hawaii to create career pipelines in the fields of agriculture and agricultural technology;
- (2) Requires 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) Requires reports to the Legislature; and
- (4) Appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii.



Your Committee received written comments in support of this measure from the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, Agribusiness Development Corporation, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Chamber of Commerce Hawaii, Hawaii Farm Bureau, Local Food Coalition, and four individuals.

Your Committee received written comments on this measure from the Department of Education and University of Hawaii.

Your Committee finds that the State's agriculture industry depends on cultivating a skilled, culturally grounded, and resilient agricultural workforce. Your Committee also finds that, while Hawaii imports over eighty per cent of its food, the State faces a shortage of young farmers and agricultural professionals. Your Committee further finds that these issues have made it difficult for small farms to scale up production, which is exacerbated by a weak workforce pipeline that is needed for sustainable growth in the State's agricultural sector.

Your Committee believes that the program established and funded by this measure will help address these workforce shortage issues and support the State's food security.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Ways and Means that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2320, S.D. 1, and recommends that it pass Third Reading.

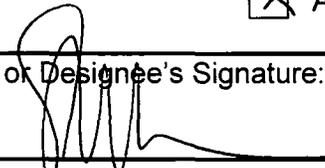
Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Ways and Means,


DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Ways and Means
WAM

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 2020, SD 1	Committee Referral: EDU/AEN, WAM	Date: 3/3/2026		
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
DELA CRUZ, Donovan M. (C)	X			
MORIWAKI, Sharon Y. (VC)	X			
DECOITE, Lynn	X			
ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C.	X			
HASHIMOTO, Troy N.	X			
INOUYE, Lorraine R.	X			
KANUHA, Dru Mamo	X			
KIDANI, Michelle N.	X			
KIM, Donna Mercado	X			
LEE, Chris	X			
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim"	X			
WAKAI, Glenn	X			
FEVELLA, Kurt				X
TOTAL	12	0	0	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