

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2621

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 20 2026

RE: S.B. No. 2488
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. 2488
entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES
COUNCIL,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish the position of the Hawaii Invasive Species
Council Executive Director;
- (2) Appropriate funds to the Department of Land and Natural
Resources, rather than the Department of Agriculture and
Biosecurity, for the Hawaii Invasive Species Council for
fiscal year 2026-2027; and
- (3) Require a report to the Legislature.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure
from the Department of Health; Department of Agriculture and
Biosecurity; Department of Land and Natural Resources;
Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species; Hawai'i Food+ Policy;
Sierra Club of Hawai'i; Hawai'i Farm Bureau; The Nature
Conservancy, Hawai'i and Palmyra; Free Access Coalition; O'ahu



Invasive Species Committee; Kupuna for the Mo'opuna; and sixteen individuals.

Your Committees find that the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) plays a critical role as a cross-jurisdictional organization that coordinates, supports, and funds research while directing invasive species control activities. Act 236, Session Laws of Hawaii 2025, transfers HISC from the Department of Land and Natural Resources to the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity. However, HISC will remain administratively attached to the Department of Land and Natural Resources until January 2030. This measure will transfer funds appropriated to the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to the Department of Land and Natural Resources and establish the position of Hawaii Invasive Species Council Executive Director to ensure that HISC may continue to execute essential invasive species prevention and response programs amidst its restructuring.

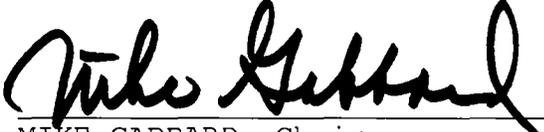
Your Committees have amended this measure by:

- (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 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. 2488, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2488, 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



