

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 20 2026

RE: S.B. No. 2704

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. 2704 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SUBSISTENCE GARDENING,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish within the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity a temporary Subsistence-Plus Gardening Pilot Program;
- (2) Require a report to the Legislature; and
- (3) Appropriate funds.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity, Hawai'i Farm Bureau, Hawai'i Farmers Union United, Hawai'i Food+ Policy, Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo, Taro Stewards, and twenty individuals.

Your Committee finds that community gardens are an excellent way to alleviate food insecurity, provide healthy outdoor activity, create a connection with agriculture, and strengthen communities. As local communities face rising food costs, supply chain instability, and limited access to land, community farms can supplement a food gap and lower costs for families. By supporting

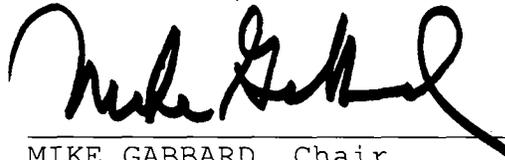


small community-based farm clubs, this measure recognizes that food security does not require massive acreage.

Your Committee has amended this measure by inserting an effective date of July 1, 2050, to encourage further discussion.

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. 2704, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2704, 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,



MIKE GABBARD, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Third Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
AEN

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB2704	Committee Referral: AEN, WAM	Date: 2-13-26
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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	4			1

Recommendation:
 Adopted
 Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature:


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***Only one measure per Record of Votes**