

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1497-26

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 30, 2026

RE: S.B. No. 2706
S.D. 1
H.D. 1

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

Madame:

Your Committee on Higher Education, to which was referred
S.B. No. 2706, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish and appropriate funds for a five-year
Agriculture and Biosecurity Workforce Development Pilot
Program within the Department of Agriculture and
Biosecurity, in collaboration with the University of
Hawaii's Leeward Community College and the Department of
Human Resources Development; and
- (2) Require a report to the Legislature.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the University of Hawai'i Community Colleges; Department of
Land and Natural Resources; Department of Agriculture and
Biosecurity; Hawai'i Food+ Policy; Hawai'i Farm Bureau; and one
individual. Your Committee received comments on this measure from
the Department of Human Resources Development and one individual.

2026-2797 SB2706 HD1 HSCR HMSO



Your Committee finds that workforce shortages remain one of the most significant challenges facing Hawaii's agriculture and biosecurity sectors, especially as Hawaii's farmers and ranchers continue to age, and many multigenerational operations face uncertainties due to the lack of training for the next generation of workers. Your Committee further finds that the Pilot Program's emphasis on curriculum development, hands-on training, and real-world work opportunities aligns with best practices for building career pathways that lead to employment and advancement in the areas of agriculture and biosecurity.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Higher Education that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2706, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Higher Education,



ANDREW TAKUYA GARRETT, Chair



