

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2643

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 20 2026

RE: S.B. No. 2706
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 Agriculture and Environment and Education,
to which was referred S.B. No. 2706 entitled:

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

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish 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 Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity, University of Hawai'i Community Colleges, Hawai'i Farm Bureau, Hawai'i Food+ Policy, and two individuals.

Your Committees received comments on this measure from Department of Human Resources Development.

Your Committees find that access to a stable, well-trained workforce is key to maintaining biosecurity efforts across the



State. Biosecurity and agricultural agencies face increasing difficulty recruiting qualified candidates due to the specialized education, training, and background experience required for many positions. Because these workforce shortages remain one of the most significant challenges facing the agriculture and biosecurity sectors, your Committees believe that intentional workforce investments are critical to mitigate the State's increasing reliance on food importation and weakening biosecurity mechanisms. This measure will assist the State in achieving its goals, such as doubling local food production, strengthening farm-to-school programs, diversifying the economy, and protecting natural resources.

Your Committees have amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting an effective date of July 1, 2050, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) Making a technical, nonsubstantive amendment for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Agriculture and Environment and Education that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2706, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2706, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

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



DONNA MERCADO KIM, Chair



MIKE GABBARD, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

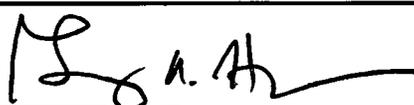
Record of Votes
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
AEN

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:
SB2706	AEN/EDU, 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		

*Only one measure per Record of Votes

The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Education
EDU

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SB 2706	AEN/EDU, 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				

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