

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2735

Honolulu, Hawaii

**MAR 05 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 Committee on Ways and Means, to which was referred S.B. No. 2706, S.D. 1, entitled:

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

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to support workforce development and provide interested students with hands-on experience in the fields of agriculture and biosecurity.

More specifically, this measure:

- (1) Establishes a five-year Agriculture and Biosecurity Workforce Pilot Program within the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity, in collaboration with Leeward Community College and the Department of Human Resources Development;
- (2) Requires the pilot program to develop a broad topical curriculum, provide practical training and work experience, and encourage additional training and credential attainment in topics relevant to agriculture and biosecurity; and
- (3) Requires a report to the Legislature on the pilot program prior to the 2031 Regular Session.



Your Committee received written comments in support of this measure from the Hawaii Farm Bureau, Chamber of Commerce Hawaii, Hawaii Food+ Policy, and two individuals.

Your Committee received written comments on this measure from the Department of Human Resources Development.

Your Committee finds that the State's heightened efforts to promote biosecurity and agricultural self-sufficiency require a robust and well-trained workforce. Biosecurity and agricultural agencies continue to encounter recruitment challenges because of the specialized education, training, and background experience required for many positions. Investing in workforce development in agriculture and biosecurity will help support Hawaii's path toward food self-sufficiency and enhanced biosecurity.

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. 2706, S.D. 1, and recommends that it pass Third Reading.

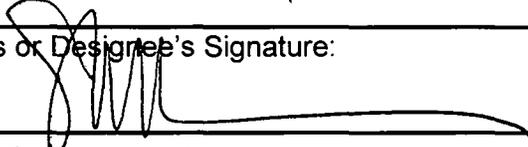
Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Ways and Means,

  
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.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SB 2706, SD 1	AEN/EDU, WAM	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
<b>TOTAL</b>	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