

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **2500**

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 20 2026

RE: S.B. No. 3233
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 Government Operations, to which was referred S.B. No. 3233 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL WORKFORCE HOUSING,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Require state agencies, including the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity and Agribusiness Development Corporation, that administer agricultural leases, licenses, development programs, or procurement involving agricultural products to award points or preferences to agricultural projects incorporating agricultural workforce housing; and
- (2) Require a report to the Legislature.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, Agribusiness Development Corporation, Hawai'i Farm Bureau, Chamber of Commerce Hawaii, Hawai'i Food+ Policy, and one individual.

Your Committees received comments on this measure from the State Procurement Office and Hawai'i Farmers Union United.



Your Committees find that agriculture across the State, particularly on the neighbor islands, faces persistent labor shortages driven in part by limited and high-cost housing options that make it difficult to recruit and retain workers. Without reliable and proximate housing, farms struggle to maintain stable operations, expand production, or meet institutional and local food demand. By prioritizing agricultural projects that include dedicated agricultural worker housing, this measure seeks to protect the State's food security and ensure continuity in food production.

Your Committees acknowledge the concerns raised in testimony by the State Procurement Office that providing preference to agricultural projects that provide workforce housing may lead to reduced economic competition. Your Committees further acknowledge the concerns raised in testimony by the Hawaii Farmers Union United that the preferential scoring system, as currently proposed, could lock out small-scale producers from accessing state agricultural leases. Therefore, amendments to this measure are necessary to address these concerns.

Your Committees have amended this measure by:

- (1) Specifying that all procurement involving agricultural products shall be conducted in accordance with the structured competitive procedures required by the Hawaii Public Procurement Code governing competitive sealed bidding and competitive sealed proposals;
- (2) Inserting language that outlines the scoring rubric for a state agency to award additional points or preferences;
- (3) Specifying that any procurement conducted for an agricultural project shall be in accordance with the Hawaii Public Procurement Code governing competitive sealed bidding and competitive sealed proposals; and
- (4) Inserting an effective date of July 1, 2050, to encourage further discussion.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Agriculture and Environment and Government

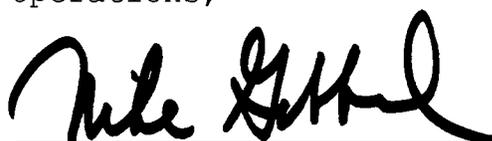


Operations that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 3233, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 3233, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

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



ANGUS L.K. MCKELVEY, Chair

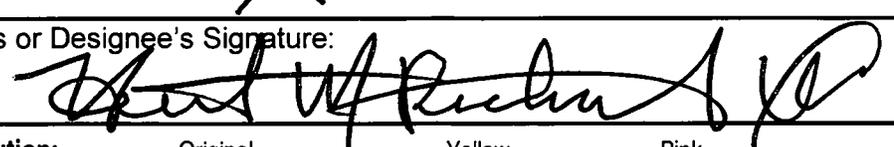


MIKE GABBARD, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Third Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
AEN

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB3233	Committee Referral: AEN/6VO, WAM	Date: 2-12-26		
<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

