

Honolulu, Hawaii

Aj-04 , 2008

RE: S.B. No. 2915  
S.D. 2  
H.D. 1

Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2008  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Finance, to which was referred S.B. No. 2915, S.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TARO,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this bill is to guide policy and prioritize research for the protection of taro by establishing the Taro Security and Purity Task Force (Task Force) and appropriating an unspecified amount for this purpose.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, Hawaii Crop Improvement Association, Maui County Farm Bureau, and several individuals testified in support of this bill. The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) and the Department of Agriculture (DOA) offered comments.

Your Committee has amended this bill by:

- (1) Adding a representative from the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to the Task Force;
- (2) Requiring the Task Force to:
  - (A) Develop a program to provide taro education and training opportunities;



- (B) Develop a program for commercial taro growers to maximize business viability and success;
  - (C) Develop a taro farming grant program to help preserve the cultural legacy of taro farming;
  - (D) Discuss the feasibility and impact of requiring DLNR to provide reduced lease rents for taro farmers on state-leased lands; and
  - (E) Develop taro research and outreach for the control and eradication of apple snails;
- (3) Requiring the Task Force to include information on actual expenditures in its report to the Legislature;
  - (4) Specifying that funds shall also be used for taro research and outreach for the control and eradication of apple snails;
  - (5) Designating OHA instead of DOA as the expending agency;
  - (6) Allowing OHA the flexibility to determine appropriation amounts for specific Task Force activities;
  - (7) Changing the effective date to July 1, 2020, to encourage further discussion; and
  - (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for consistency, clarity, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Finance that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2915, S.D. 2, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2915, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.



Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Finance,



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MARCUS R. OSHIRO, Chair



State of Hawaii  
House of Representatives  
The Twenty-fourth Legislature

HSCR 1709-08

**Record of Votes of the Committee on Finance**

| <b>Bill/Resolution No.:</b><br>SB 2915, SD 2   | <b>Committee Referral:</b><br>FIN | <b>Date:</b><br>3-27-2008 |      |         |
|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.  |                                   |                           |      |         |
| <b>The recommendation is to:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold<br><input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit) |                                   |                           |      |         |
| FIN Members  | Ayes                              | Ayes (WR)                 | Nays | Excused |
| 1. OSHIRO, Marcus R. (C)   | ✓                                 |                           |      |         |
| 2. LEE, Marilyn B. (VC)  | ✓                                 |                           |      |         |
| 3. AWANA, Karen Leinani  |                                   | ✓                         |      |         |
| 4. BELATTI, Della Au   |                                   | ✓                         |      |         |
| 5. BROWER, Tom   | ✓                                 |                           |      |         |
| 6. CARROLL, Mele   |                                   |                           |      | ✓       |
| 7. HANOHANO, Faye P.   | ✓                                 |                           |      |         |
| 8. HAR, Sharon E.  | ✓                                 |                           |      |         |
| 9. KARAMATSU, Jon Riki   | ✓                                 |                           |      |         |
| 10. MAGAOAY, Michael Y.  | ✓                                 |                           |      |         |
| 11. MANAHAN, Joey  | ✓                                 |                           |      |         |
| 12. MIZUNO, John   | ✓                                 |                           |      |         |
| 13. NAKASONE, Bob  |                                   |                           |      | ✓       |
| 14. RHOADS, Karl   | ✓                                 |                           |      |         |
| 15. SAGUM, Roland D., III  |                                   | ✓                         |      |         |
| 16. TOKIOKA, James Kunane  | ✓                                 |                           |      |         |
| 17. MEYER, Colleen Rose  | ✓                                 |                           |      |         |
| 18. PINE, Kymberly Marcos  |                                   |                           |      | ✓       |
| 19. WARD, Gene, Ph.D.  |                                   | ✓                         |      |         |
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| <b>TOTAL (19)</b>  | 12                                | 4                         | 0    | 3       |
| <b>The recommendation is:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted<br>If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation.<br><div style="text-align: center; font-size: 10pt;">committee acronym(s)</div>                               |                                   |                           |      |         |
| <b>Vice Chair's or designee's signature:</b> <u>Marilyn B. Lee</u>   |                                   |                           |      |         |
| <b>Distribution:</b> Original (White) – Committee    Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office   |                                   |                           |      |         |