

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1165

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 06 2009

RE: S.C.R. No. 38
S.D. 1

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa
President of the Senate
Twenty-Fifth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2009
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred S.C.R. No. 38 entitled:

"SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PLAN FOR INCREASING AID AND ASSISTANCE TO ORGANIC FARMERS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to urge the Department of Agriculture to develop a plan to increase aid and assistance to organic farmers.

Testimony in support of this measure was submitted by one organization and four public citizens. One state agency, two organizations, and three public citizens supported the intent of this measure. Testimony in opposition was submitted by one organization. Written testimony presented to your Committee may be reviewed on the Legislature's website.

In the past, researchers developing solutions for agricultural problems in Hawaii, did so to the exclusion of organic farmers. For example, the Papaya Ringspot Virus problem was solved by developing a genetically engineered variety, which is not permitted under organic certification standards. Recently, this trend has started to change with the development of the Hawaii Organic Seed Program and the Hawaii Area-wide Fruit Fly control program, which is a solution compatible with organic certification. Your Committee finds that there are still many issues that need to be addressed for Hawaii's organic farmers and the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, Public Law

2009-2008 SCR SSCR SMA.doc



No. 110-246, commonly referred to as the 2008 Farm Bill, specifically set aside funds for organic farming issues. Your Committee believes that this measure will ensure that the Department of Agriculture commits sufficient attention to organic farming issues in Hawaii and employs all resources available in the 2008 Farm Bill.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Including the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources of the University of Hawaii at Manoa as a stakeholder for organic farming; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive changes for style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.C.R. No. 38, as amended herein, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as S.C.R. No. 38, S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Water, Land,
Agriculture, and Hawaiian
Affairs,




CLAYTON HEE, Chair



The Senate
 Twenty-Fifth Legislature
 State of Hawaii

Record of Votes
Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs
WTL

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SCR 38	WTL	4/1/09		
<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
HEE, Clayton (C)	✓			
TOKUDA, Jill N. (VC)	✓			
BUNDA, Robert	✓			
FUKUNAGA, Carol	✓			
KOKUBUN, Russell S.				✓
TAKAMINE, Dwight Y.				✓
HEMMINGS, Fred				✓
TOTAL	4	0	0	3
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
				
Distribution:				
Original	Yellow	Pink	Goldenrod	
File with Committee Report	Clerk's Office	Drafting Agency	Committee File Copy	

*Only one measure per Record of Votes