

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

163

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 11 2013

RE: S.B. No. 1339

Honorable Donna Mercado Kim
President of the Senate
Twenty-Seventh State Legislature
Regular Session of 2013
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committees on Water and Land and Agriculture, to which was referred S.B. No. 1339 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO RURAL AREAS,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to establish a definition of rural that would protect existing programs in remote areas of the State, such as the critical access hospital designation for Kahuku Medical Center, and expand opportunities for other communities that are designated as rural within the State but do not otherwise meet federal definitions to qualify as such.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from Kahuku Medical Center and two individuals.

Your Committees find that the 2010 Census determined that Oahu no longer contains any areas that federally qualify as rural. This endangers Kahuku Medical Center's designation as a critical access hospital and disqualifies all communities on Oahu from participating in federal rural programs. Since 2010, rural communities in Hawaii have qualified for \$1,890,000 in federal grants from the Health Resources and Services Administration's Office of Rural Health Policy alone, with about half going to Oahu. With the release of the latest census figures, communities on Oahu no longer qualify for these and other federal programs.

While the federal definitions of rural will keep some communities from participating in federal programs, there are

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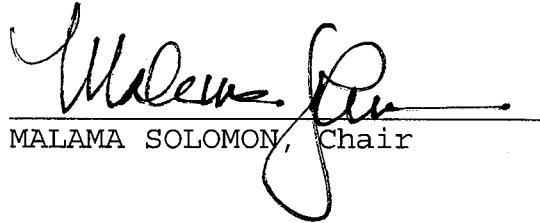
several federal programs that recognize state definitions of rural. This measure establishes a state definition of rural that would protect existing programs in remote areas of the State.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Water and Land and Agriculture that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 1339 and recommend that it pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Water and Land
and Agriculture,



CLARENCE K. NISHIHARA, Chair



MALAMA SOLOMON, Chair



The Senate
 Twenty-Seventh Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Agriculture
AGL

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SB1339	WTL/AGL, WAM	2/5/13		
<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
NISHIHARA, Clarence K. (C)	✓			
KOUCHI, Ronald D. (VC)	✓			
DELA CRUZ, Donovan M.	✓			
ENGLISH, J. Kalani	✓			
THIELEN, Laura H.	✓			
WAKAI, Glenn				✓
SLOM, Sam	✓			
TOTAL	6			1
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <div style="text-align:center; font-family: cursive; font-size: 1.2em;"> </div>				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes