

Honolulu, Hawaii  
**February 9**, 2016

RE: H.B. No. 1996  
H.D. 1

Honorable Joseph M. Souki  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2016  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Agriculture, to which was referred H.B. No. 1996 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to establish and fund a two-year Agricultural Theft and Vandalism Pilot Project to focus on investigating and prosecuting agricultural theft and vandalism in the County of Hawaii, including by requiring the Department of Agriculture to partner with Hawaii County to hire an enforcement officer within the County's Office of the Prosecuting Attorney.

The Department of Agriculture; Office of the Prosecuting Attorney of Hawaii County; Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of Maui County; Hawaii Farm Bureau; Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association; Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii; W.H. Shipman Limited; Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.; Ponoholo Ranch Limited; and a concerned individual supported this measure.

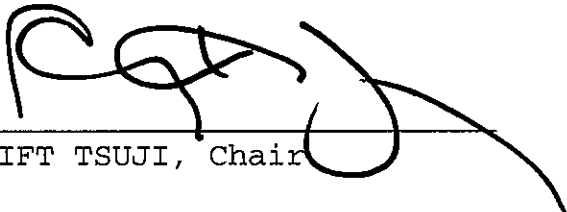
Your Committee notes that H.B. No. 2674 which was considered at the same public hearing as this measure, also provides for a similar approach to addressing agricultural theft and vandalism in Hawaii County. However, at this point in the legislative process, your Committee believes that this measure, as amended by your Committee, is the more suitable vehicle to resolve the problems plaguing these farmers and ranchers.



Your Committee further finds that other law enforcement agencies, such as the Investigations Division of the Office of the Attorney General, may be appropriate partners in this pilot project. Accordingly, your Committee has amended this measure by clarifying that the enforcement officer to be hired for the pilot project may include an enforcement officer from any law enforcement agency, rather than restricting the agency to the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney of Hawaii County.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Agriculture that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1996, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1996, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Judiciary.

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CLIFT TSUJI, Chair



**Record of Votes of the Committee on Agriculture**

Bill/Resolution No.: <b>HB 1996</b>	Committee Referral: <b>AGR, JUD, FIN</b>	Date: <b>2-4-16</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
AGR Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. TSUJI, Clift (C)	/			
2. ONISHI, Richard H.K. (VC)	/			
3. BROWER, Tom	/			
4. CACHOLA, Romy M.	/			
5. CHOY, Isaac W.	/			
6. DECOITE, Lynn	/			
7. ITO, Ken	/			
8. KAWAKAMI, Derek S.K.	/			
9. KONG, Sam Satoru	/			
10. OHNO, Takashi	/			
11. TOKIOKA, James Kunane	/			
12. WOODSON, Justin H.	/			
13. MATSUMOTO, Lauren Kealohilani	/			
14. WARD, Gene	/			
<b>TOTAL (14)</b>	<b>14</b>			
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. <div style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">committee acronym(s)</div>				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature:				
Distribution:    Original (White) – Committee    Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office    Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				