

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 3515

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 08 2016

RE: H.B. No. 2657
H.D. 2
S.D. 2

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2016
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Ways and Means, to which was referred H.B. No. 2657, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to provide cost reimbursement to small business ventures that are in diversified agriculture and to farmers and ranchers on Molokai to help them meet the costs, including audit costs, of compliance with the requirements of the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act and state food safety laws.

Specifically, this measure:

- (1) Amends Act 387, Session Laws of Hawaii 1988, by replacing the revolving loan program for small business ventures in diversified agriculture on Molokai with a cost reimbursement program that includes Molokai ranchers and farmers among the entities that are eligible for cost reimbursements; and
- (2) Appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds to the Maui Office of Economic Development to review and approve cost reimbursement applications.



Your Committee received written comments in support of this measure from the Department of Agriculture, Hawaii Farm Bureau, a member of the Maui County Council, and two individuals.

Your Committee finds that the costs that farmers and ranchers must incur to comply with federal and state requirements, including the food safety requirements of the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act, are prohibitive to certain farmers and ranchers. Your Committee also finds that these high costs threaten the viability of farmers and ranchers on Molokai, and that the assistance provided by this measure will help the farmers and ranchers avoid closures that would have a detrimental effect on the diversified agricultural industry on Molokai.

Should this measure be heard by the Committee on Conference, your Committee respectfully requests the Department of Agriculture provide an appropriation amount that is sufficient to enable the Maui Office of Economic Development to review and approve cost reimbursement applications.

Your Committee has amended this measure by changing the effective date to July 1, 2050, to facilitate further discussion on the measure.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Ways and Means that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2657, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2657, H.D. 2, S.D. 2.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Ways and Means,

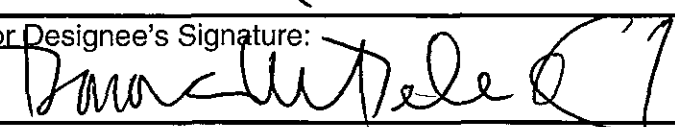


JILL N. TOKUDA, Chair



The Senate
 Twenty-Eighth Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Ways and Means
WAM

Bill / Resolution No.:* HB 2657, HD2, SD1	Committee Referral: WLA, WAM	Date: 3/31/16		
<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
TOKUDA, Jill N. (C)	/			
DELA CRUZ, Donovan M. (VC)	/			
CHUN OAKLAND, Suzanne	/			
ENGLISH, J. Kalani	-			/
GALUTERIA, Brickwood	/			
HARIMOTO, Breene	/			
INOUYE, Lorraine R.	/			
RIVIERE, Gil	/			
TANIGUCHI, Brian T.	/			/
WAKAI, Glenn	/			
SLOM, Sam	/			
TOTAL	9			2
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