

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 3082

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 24 2016

RE: H.B. No. 2676  
H.D. 2  
S.D. 1

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

Sir:

Your Committees on Water, Land, and Agriculture and Higher Education and the Arts, to which was referred H.B. No. 2676, H.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURE,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to encourage farming in the State by establishing and appropriating funds for a five-year energy independent farming community pilot project, within the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources' Agribusiness Incubator program, to provide support to persons who want to be farmers.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Agriculture, University of Hawai'i System, Hawai'i Farm Bureau, EcoTipping Points Project, NuWayve Unlimited, and three individuals.

Your Committees find that new farmers face tremendous obstacles in starting a farm, including high infrastructure costs to provide water, sewer, and electrical services to the land. Farmers who lease land encounter difficulties in terminating leases when housing is situated on the leased land, while farmers who purchase private land face the prospect that lessees will demand lease to fee conversion. Your Committees further find that the State, as owner of thousands of acres of agricultural land, can play a major role in addressing the barriers faced by



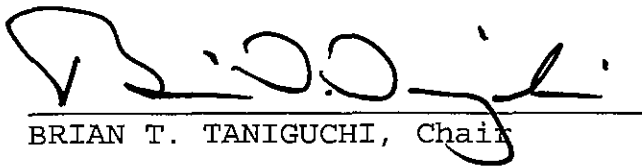
prospective farmers while also addressing potential infrastructure, eviction, and inefficiency problems for the landowner by creating state-owned small farming communities consisting of agricultural areas with two to five acre lots, each with a clustered off-grid housing unit, leased to the farmer.

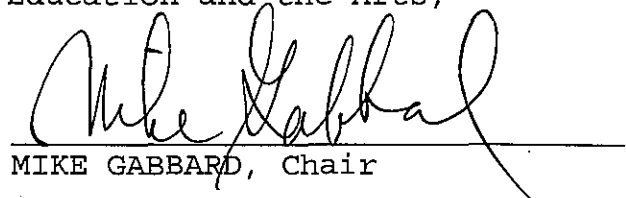
Your Committees have amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting an appropriation amount of \$100,000 for the manager position;
- (2) Inserting an appropriation amount of \$50,000 for planning of the pilot project; and
- (3) Inserting an effective date of July 1, 2016.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Water, Land, and Agriculture and Higher Education and the Arts that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2676, H.D. 2, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2676, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

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


  
BRIAN T. TANIGUCHI, Chair

  
MIKE GABBARD, Chair



The Senate  
 Twenty-Eighth Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture**  
**WLA**

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
HB 2676, HD2	WLA/HEA, WAM	3-21-16		
<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
GABBARD, Mike (C)	/			
NISHIHARA, Clarence K. (VC)	/			
DELA CRUZ, Donovan M.				/
RIVIERE, Gil	/			
RUDERMAN, Russell E.	/			
SHIMABUKURO, Maile S.L.				/
THIELEN, Laura H.	/			
WAKAI, Glenn				/
SLOM, Sam	/			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>			<b>3</b>
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

