

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 03 2017

RE: S.B. No. 353

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2017  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Agriculture and Environment, to which was referred S.B. No. 353 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds and appropriate funds for plans of a biological control containment facility on Oahu.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Agriculture, Big Island Invasive Species Committee, Hawai'i Farm Bureau, and The Nature Conservancy.

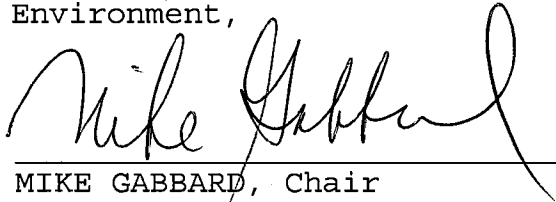
Your Committee finds that the Department of Agriculture recently released its *Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan*, which states that in order for biosecurity to work, the Department of Agriculture's biocontrol program needs adequate resources, including state-of-the-art biocontrol facilities, equipped to develop effective biocontrol for some of Hawaii's high-impact and widespread invasive species that are difficult to control through conventional methods. Your Committee finds that funding is needed to update the current, antiquated biological control containment facility into a state-of-the-art laboratory to reach the goals of the biosecurity plan.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Agriculture and Environment that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of



S.B. No. 353 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

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

  
MIKE GABBARD, Chair



