

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

64

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 07 2017

RE: S.B. No. 354

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. 354 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to establish a temporary task force within the Department of Agriculture to create a definition for the term "bona fide agricultural producer".

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Agriculture; Office of Planning; Hawai'i Farm Bureau; Maui County Farm Bureau; Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.; PonoHolo Ranch, Limited; and one individual. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Taxation.

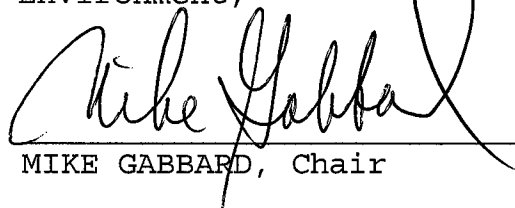
Your Committee finds that there is no definition for "bona fide agricultural producer" in the Hawaii Revised Statutes, which has led to disagreement among policy makers and stakeholders when crafting legislation and incentives to benefit farmers. Creating a single definition or multiple definitions of "bona fide agricultural producer" may require careful and substantial amendments to the Hawaii Revised Statutes. Creating a single definition will likely require the development of standards and criteria to define what constitutes a qualifying level of performance or achievement for each category of agricultural producer and may need to be broad so as not to inadvertently exclude certain farmers. Your Committee further finds that a temporary task force under the Department of Agriculture would be



ideally suited to analyze such standards and criteria in developing a definition of "bona fide agricultural producer".

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. 354 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



The Senate
 Twenty-Ninth Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
AEN

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:
SB 354	AEN, WAM	Feb 3, 2017
<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	
GABBARD, Mike (C)	X	
RIVIERE, Gil (VC)	X	
NISHIHARA, Clarence K.		X
RHOADS, Karl	X	
RUDERMAN, Russell E.		X
TOTAL	3	0
0	0	2
Recommendation:		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted		
Chair's or Designee's Signature:		
		
Distribution:		
Original File with Committee Report	Yellow Clerk's Office	Pink Drafting Agency
Goldenrod Committee File Copy		

*Only one measure per Record of Votes