

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 01 2017

RE: S.B. No. 160
S.D. 1

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. 160 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 and appropriate funds derived from the state environmental response, energy, and food security tax (barrel tax) for the Korean natural farming pilot program.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Agriculture; Hawaii Farmers Union United; Hawaii Center for Food Safety; We Are One, Inc.; Miss Rodeo Hawaii Program; and twelve individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Taxation.

Your Committee finds that agricultural pests in Hawaii, such as the little fire ant, coffee berry borer, papaya ringspot virus, macadamia felted coccid, macadamia fungus, banana bungee, coqui frogs, and fire weed, threaten the economic viability of Hawaii's commercial agricultural industries. The use of pesticides to combat these pests may endanger the health of Hawaii's people and environment, whereas Korean natural farming does not pose the same health risks. Korean natural farming techniques, which involve collecting and culturing indigenous microorganisms and reintroducing them into an agroecosystem, may be an effective method to combat these pests without the use of pesticides.

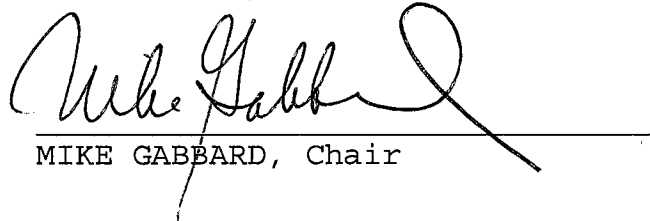


Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Removing sections 2 and 3, relating to the barrel tax;
- (2) Inserting an appropriation amount of \$100,000; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

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. 160, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 160, S.D. 1, 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.:* SB 160	Committee Referral: AEN, WAM	Date: 1-30-17		
<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)	X			
RIVIERE, Gil (VC)	X			
NISHIHARA, Clarence K.				X
RHOADS, Karl	X			
RUDERMAN, Russell E.	X			
TOTAL	4	0	0	1
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <div style="text-align:center; font-family: cursive; font-size: 1.2em;">  </div>				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes