

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1254

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 19 2019

RE: H.B. No. 1503
H.D. 2
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirtieth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2019
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Agriculture and Environment, to which was referred H.B. No. 1503, H.D. 2, 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 two-year agricultural theft and vandalism pilot project to examine the effectiveness of prosecuting agricultural theft and vandalism cases in the County of Hawaii, including theft and vandalism affecting individuals who are not full-time farmers or ranchers.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Agriculture, County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor, County of Hawai'i Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, one member of Hawai'i County Council, Ulupono Initiative, Hawai'i Farm Bureau, Maui County Farm Bureau, Hawaii Coffee Association, and two individuals.

Your Committee finds that agricultural vandalism and theft have resulted in economic hardships for farmers and their families. Your Committee also finds that the Department of Agriculture entered into a two-year contract with the Hawaii County Office of the Prosecuting Attorney for one investigator to conduct agricultural theft and agricultural vandalism investigations. This project has been valuable and productive and



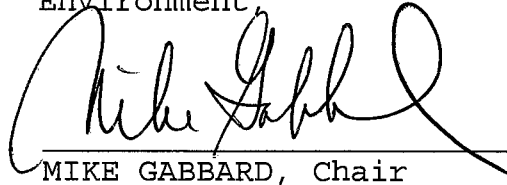
has included outreach to farmers and law enforcement officers. Your Committee further finds that due to the large land area of Hawaii County, funding for at least two positions is needed to conduct an agricultural theft and vandalism pilot project.

Your Committee has therefore amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting an appropriation amount of \$200,000 for each fiscal year of the 2019-2020 biennium and specifying the use of appropriated funds to hire two full-time equivalent enforcement officers for the pilot project;
- (2) Making it effective on July 1, 2019; and
- (3) Making a technical, nonsubstantive amendment 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 H.B. No. 1503, H.D. 2, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1503, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committees on Judiciary and Ways and Means.

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



MIKE GABBARD, Chair



The Senate
Thirtieth Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
AEN

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
HB 1503, HD2	AEN, JDC/WAM	03.13.2019		
<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			
RUDERMAN, Russell E. (VC)	X			
RHOADS, Karl	X			
THIELEN, Laura H.	X			
FEVELLA, Kurt				X
TOTAL	4	0	0	1
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