

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 13 , 2020

RE: H.B. No. 2215

H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirtieth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2020
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Lower & Higher Education, to which was referred H.B. No. 2215 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to establish and appropriate funds for the workforce development coordinator position within the Department of Agriculture to oversee ongoing communication and collaboration of the P-20 Agriculture Education Working Group and lead the implementation plan for a coordinated framework of support for P-20 agriculture education in Hawaii.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Education, Ka Ohana O Na Pua, Hawaii Farm Bureau, Malama Kauai, Farm to Keiki, Hawaii Public Health Institute, aLocal Food Coalition, Blue Zones Project, Blue Zones Project Wahiawa, and seven individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Agriculture and University of Hawaii at Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources.

Your Committee finds that the average age of farmers in Hawaii is sixty years, and Hawaii does not have a farming workforce large enough for expansion of cultivated agricultural lands and food production. A primary cause of the shortage of new



farmers in the State has been the decline of support for agriculture education from state government. Your Committee further finds that the Hawaii State Senate passed Senate Resolution No. 80, Regular Session of 2015, requesting the University of Hawaii at Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources to "convene a working group to develop a coordinated framework of support for preschool through post-secondary (P-20) agriculture education and a plan for implementation". After three years, the convened P-20 Agriculture Education Working Group submitted a final report to the 2019 Legislature outlining a coordinated framework of support for P-20 agriculture education in the State. This measure establishes and funds a workforce development coordinator position to assist the P-20 Agriculture Education Working Group and lead in the implementation of the Working Group's coordinated framework.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Establishing the workforce development coordinator position within the Department of Education, rather than the Department of Agriculture;
- (2) Changing the expending agency of the appropriation for the workforce development coordinator position from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of Education;
- (3) Changing its effective date to July 1, 2050; and
- (4) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Lower & Higher Education that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2215, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2215, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Finance.



Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Lower & Higher
Education,


JUSTIN W. WOODSON, Chair



Record of Votes of the Committee on Lower & Higher Education

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 2215	Committee Referral: LHE, FIN	Date: 2/7/2020		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
LHE Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. WOODSON, Justin H. (C)	✓			
2. HASHEM, Mark J. (VC)	✓			
3. QUINLAN, Sean (VC)				✓
4. DeCOITE, Lynn				✓
5. JOHANSON, Aaron Ling	✓			
6. KOBAYASHI, Dale T.	✓			
7. MORIKAWA, Dee	✓			
8. OHNO, Takashi	✓			
9. TARNAS, David A.	✓			
10. TOKIOKA, James Kunane	✓			
11. OKIMOTO, Val	✓			
TOTAL (11)	9			2
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. <small style="margin-left: 100px;">committee acronym(s)</small>				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature:				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				