

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 14 2020

RE: S.B. No. 2723

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirtieth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2020  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Higher Education and Agriculture and Environment, to which was referred S.B. No. 2723 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURE,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Appropriate funds for the GoFarm Hawaii program; and
- (2) Require GoFarm Hawaii to provide the Chair of the Board of Agriculture with an annual report of the program's goals and a semi-annual report outlining program outputs and outcomes.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the University of Hawai'i System, Department of Agriculture, Hawai'i Farm Bureau, North Shore Economic Vitality Partnership, Counter Culture Organic Farm, Ulupono Initiative, The Kohala Center, Ho'ōla Farms, O'ahu Resource Conservation and Development Council, Hawai'i State Future Farmers of America, Kōkua Hawaii Foundation, Kamehameha Schools, Waimānalo Market Co-op, Bear Claw Farm LLC, Wiko Farms, De La Mesa LLC, and nine private individuals.

Your Committees find that GoFarm is a premier training program for beginning farmers in Hawaii. Demand for enrollment in

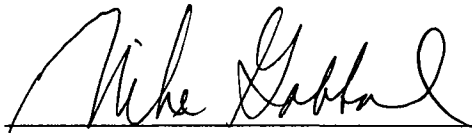


GoFarm Hawaii among interested farmers often exceeds available places.

Your Committees further find that, while sugarcane has disappeared from our landscape, the majority of these lands, though now fallow, are still zoned agricultural. They have great potential and can be brought back into commercial agriculture to create the green landscape so important to our local economy, environment, food security, and visitor industry. In order to increase the number of farmers in Hawaii's diversified agriculture and ensure their success, it is necessary to provide aspiring farmers with the knowledge and skill sets they need to grow crops better and operate their agribusinesses more profitably.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Higher Education and Agriculture and Environment that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2723 and recommend that it pass Second Reading and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committees on Higher Education  
and Agriculture and  
Environment,

  
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MIKE GABBARD, Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DONNA MERCADO KIM, Chair



The Senate  
Thirtieth Legislature  
State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Higher Education**  
**HRE**

Bill / Resolution No.:* <i>SB 2723</i>	Committee Referral: <i>HRE/AEN, WAM</i>	Date: <i>2-11-20</i>		
<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
KIM, Donna Mercado (C)	✓			
KIDANI, Michelle N. (VC)	✓			
KAHELE, Kaiali'i				✓
KEITH-AGARAN, Gilbert S.C.				✓
FEVELLA, Kurt	✓			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<i>3</i>			<i>2</i>
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <div style="text-align:center;"><i>Michelle N. Kidani</i></div>				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original     Yellow     Pink     Goldenrod File with Committee Report     Clerk's Office     Drafting Agency     Committee File Copy				

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes

