

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

15

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 04 2019

RE: S.B. No. 485

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 S.B. No. 485 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO BIOSECURITY,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to increase the portion of the barrel tax deposited into the agricultural development and food security special fund, which may be used to support local agricultural development statewide, including the reduction of imports that impact biosecurity.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Agriculture, one member of the Hawai'i County Council, Hawai'i Farm Bureau, Ulupono Initiative, Organizing for Action, and two individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Your Committee finds that the agricultural development and food security special fund was created to support critical investments in clean energy, local agricultural production, and environmental response to reduce the State's dependence on imported fossil fuels and food products. Additionally, the fund was intended to fulfill the State's vision for increased self-sufficiency and sustainability.

The agricultural development and food security special fund is an important resource that the Department of Agriculture



utilizes for various activities intended to increase local agricultural production or processing; however, funding for this purpose was reallocated during the economic downturn for purposes other than increasing local food production. Considering today's economy and the State's goal to double its local food production in the near future, your Committee finds that increasing funding for the special fund is timely and critical. Your Committee recognizes that any additional monies deposited into this fund will support all local agricultural development statewide, one aspect of which would be to replace the importation of agriculture which correlates with improved biosecurity.

Your Committee notes the Department of Land and Natural Resources' concerns that the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission issued support for a carbon fee in the Commission's November 28, 2018, news release entitled *State Climate Commission Encourages Urgent Actions to Combat Emissions*, which references a separate report that supports an increase in the barrel tax to support clean energy and the inclusion of aviation fuel in the barrel tax. Your Committee will consider the Commission's carbon fee recommendations as this measure may also affect barrel tax allocation.

Overall, your Committee finds that supporting this measure will help implement the State's biosecurity plan, increase local food production, and increase opportunities for agricultural groups statewide.

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. 485 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
 Thirtieth Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
AEN

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 485	Committee Referral: AEN, WAM	Date: 1-30-19		
<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			
RUDERMAN, Russell E. (VC)	X			
RHOADS, Karl	X			
THIELEN, Laura H.	X			
FEVELLA, Kurt	X			
TOTAL	5	0	0	0
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