

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 14 2022

RE: S.B. No. 2675

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-First State Legislature
Regular Session of 2022
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Agriculture and Environment, to which was referred S.B. No. 2675 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish a three-year cover crop reimbursement program to provide reimbursement to farming operations in the State for costs related to cover cropping;
- (2) Establish a cover crop reimbursement pilot program manager position within the Department of Agriculture to administer the program;
- (3) Require an annual report to the Legislature; and
- (4) Appropriate funds.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Agriculture; University of Hawai'i; Hawai'i Farm Bureau; Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action; Larry Jefts Farms, LLC; Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.; 350Hawaii.org; and one individual. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Budget and Finance.



Your Committee finds that the use of cover crops increases agricultural productivity and aligns with the State's integrated sustainability goals. Specifically, cover crops add nutrients to the soil, act as windbreaks, assist with water retention, provide habitats for beneficial insects, offset greenhouse gas emissions, and prevent soil erosion. This measure incentivizes the use of beneficial cover crops by establishing a three-year cover crop pilot program.

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. 2675 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
 Thirty-First Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
AEN

Bill / Resolution No.:* <i>SB 2075</i>	Committee Referral: <i>AEN, WAM</i>	Date: <i>02/07/22</i>
---	--	--------------------------

The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.
 If so, then the previous decision was to: _____

The Recommendation is:

Pass, unamended 2312 Pass, with amendments 2311 Hold 2310 Recommit 2313

Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
GABBARD, Mike (C)	/			
NISHIHARA, Clarence K. (VC)	/			
ACASIO, Laura	/			
RHOADS, Karl	/			
FEVELLA, Kurt	/			
TOTAL	<i>5</i>			

Recommendation: Adopted Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature:
Clarence K. Nishihara

Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod
 File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy

*Only one measure per Record of Votes