

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 18 2022RE: S.B. No. 3197
S.D. 1

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. 3197 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish a farmer apprentice mentoring program to teach and train farmers to utilize a whole farm system approach to agriculture; and
- (2) Make an appropriation for the Department of Agriculture to provide mentoring on a whole farm system approach to agriculture.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Agriculture; Adaptations, Inc.; Chamber of Commerce Hawaii; Hawai'i Farmers Union United; Hawai'i Farm Bureau; and three individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Budget and Finance.

Your Committee finds that Hawaii imports between eighty-five and ninety percent of its food. The State's reliance on food imports makes it particularly vulnerable to supply chain disruptions, which have occurred frequently during the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic. A whole farm system approach to



agriculture will allow the State to reduce the need for imported food.

Your Committee finds that this measure is intended to establish a farmer training program. Your Committee has heard the concerns raised in testimony regarding the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture establishing the curriculum for the program, as proposed by this measure.

Your Committee understands these concerns and notes that S.B. No. 2709, S.D. 1 (Regular Session of 2020), which was previously passed by your Committee, also sought to establish a farmer training program. Your Committee finds that the language in S.B. No. 2709, S.D. 1, is preferable because it establishes a beginning farmer training program under the University of Hawaii West Oahu Sustainable Community Food Systems in conjunction with qualified farmer training providers. The language in S.B. No. 2709, S.D. 1, is also preferable because it articulates topic areas and allows program applicants to apply for funding.

Accordingly, your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Deleting its contents and inserting the contents of S.B. No. 2709, S.D. 1, a measure that:
 - (A) Establishes a Beginning Farmer Training Program to be administered by the University of Hawaii West Oahu Sustainable Community Food Systems; and
 - (B) Appropriates \$2,000,000 in general funds to the University of Hawaii for the Beginning Farmer Training Program; and
- (2) Inserting an effective date of January 1, 2050, to encourage further discussion; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments 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 S.B. No. 3197, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass



Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 3197,
S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

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

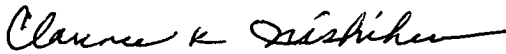


MIKE GABBARD, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-First Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
AEN

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 3197	Committee Referral: AEN, WAM	Date: 02/07/22		
<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)	/			
NISHIHARA, Clarence K. (VC)	/			
ACASIO, Laura	/			
RHOADS, Karl	/			
FEVELLA, Kurt	/			
TOTAL	5			
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