

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 15 2023

RE: S.B. No. 744

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirty-Second State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2023  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Agriculture and Environment, to which was referred S.B. No. 744 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to require the Hawaii Invasive Species Council to classify coffee leaf rust as an invasive species in its administrative rules to direct available funding for mitigation efforts, research, and prevention or control actions for coffee leaf rust.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from Kanalani Ohana Farm, Hawaii Coffee Growers Association, Kona Coffee Farmers Association, Hawai'i Farm Bureau, and three individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Agriculture and Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Your Committee finds that coffee leaf rust represents a real and direct threat to the future of coffee production in Hawaii. Since its discovery on Maui in late 2020, coffee leaf rust has been responsible for the decimation of at least fifty percent of coffee crops on most farms on Hawaii island and has had a substantial economic impact on coffee farms across the State. Your Committee additionally finds that the Hawaii Invasive Species Council was established in 2003, is administered through the Department of Land and Natural Resources, and includes other state



departments as members. This measure requires the Hawaii Invasive Species Council to classify coffee leaf rust as an invasive species in its administrative rules to make funding available for the mitigation, research, and prevention actions for coffee leaf rust.

Your Committee acknowledges a statement made in testimony by the Department of Agriculture, in which it declares that it has sufficient authority to act and respond to coffee leaf rust issues in the State. The Department, however, does not currently have the funds to support the mitigatory efforts, research, and prevention or control actions that the spread of coffee leaf rust requires and instead is limited to merely maintaining existing restrictions on the importation of coffee into the State and funding of the Pesticides Subsidy Program to combat coffee leaf rust and other coffee plant diseases. Alternatively, the Department of Agriculture proposes an appropriation of \$200,000 to maximize the utilization of departmental capabilities to sufficiently address, prevent, control, and research coffee leaf rust.

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. 744 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,




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MIKE GABBARD, Chair



The Senate  
 Thirty-Second Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Agriculture and Environment**  
**AEN**

Bill / Resolution No.:* <b>SB744</b>	Committee Referral: <b>AEN, WAM</b>	Date: <b>02-08-23</b>		
<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			
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim" (VC)	X			
DECOITE, Lynn	X			
RHOADS, Karl	X			
AWA, Brenton	X			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>			
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
<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