

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 3069

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 13 2024

RE: H.B. No. 2134  
H.D. 2

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirty-Second State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2024  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Agriculture and Environment, to which was referred H.B. No. 2134, H.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to appropriate an unspecified amount of funds to establish an unspecified number of Grant Specialist positions within the Department of Agriculture to assist farmers and ranchers in applying for, obtaining, and fulfilling the requirements of grants offered by federal, state, county, or private entities.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Agriculture; Hawai'i Farm Bureau; Maui County Farm Bureau; Ulupono Initiative; Local Food Coalition; Hawai'i Farmers Union United; Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii; Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.; Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association; Hawaii Aquaculture and Aquaponics Association; Hawaii Food+ Policy; and seven individuals.

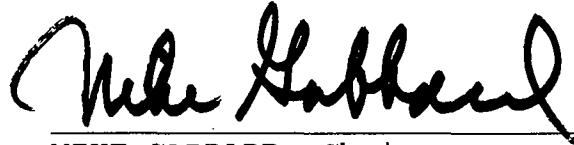
Your Committee finds that there are many federal funding opportunities for agricultural purposes that remain untapped or overlooked due to the lack of adequate grant writing and expertise in the Department of Agriculture. This measure enhances the Department's capacity to pursue and maximize the availability of federal funds to bolster the State's efforts towards food security



and sustainability, while easing the burden of complex application procedures and compliance challenges on farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural operators who pursue federal and other funding.

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 H.B. No. 2134, H.D. 2, 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



