

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **2529**

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 16 2024

RE: S.B. No. 1590
S.D. 1

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 S.B. No. 1590 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) Direct the Department of Agriculture to assess steps necessary:
 - (A) For the State to supplement federal authority to perform meat inspections with state inspectors; and
 - (B) To fully transfer meat inspection authority from federal authority to the State; and
- (2) Appropriate an unspecified amount of funds for the establishment of three full-time equivalent (3.0 FTE) inspector positions within the Department of Agriculture to perform meat inspections.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Agriculture; Hawai'i Farm Bureau; and Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.



Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Animal Welfare Institute.

Your Committee finds that the inspection of livestock prior to slaughter is a critical step to ensuring the quality and safety of the State's locally produced meat supply. Your Committee further finds that the State's meat inspection program was discontinued in the mid-1990s and since then, the State has been wholly relying on the United States Department of Agriculture Food Safety Inspection Service to perform meat inspection services statewide. Your Committee believes that steps must be taken to restore the State's ability to inspect local poultry and livestock. According to testimony received by your Committee, a state food safety and inspection service could help increase processing capacity, diversify processing options and reduce processing bottleneck, allow producers to process livestock in remote and rural locations, reduce transportation time and costs, and support producers' ability to donate locally produced meat to food banks and other community feeding programs. This measure promotes the continued growth of the State's poultry and livestock industries, while maintaining food safety standards.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting an effective date of July 1, 2050, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) 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. 1590, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 1590, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committees on Ways and Means and Commerce and Consumer Protection.



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


A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Gabbard", written over a horizontal line.

MIKE GABBARD, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Second Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
AEN

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SB 1590	AEN, WAM / CPN	02-12-24		
<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)	X			
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim" (VC)	X			
DECOITE, Lynn	X			
RHOADS, Karl	X			
AWA, Brenton	X			
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