

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2379

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 14 2024

RE: S.B. No. 2495
S.D. 1

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

Sir:

Your Committees on Agriculture and Environment and Water and Land, to which was referred S.B. No. 2495 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO WATER METERING,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Exempt from acreage assessments land occupiers who have not applied for water service for the following year;
and
- (2) Require the Board of Agriculture to amend certain administrative rules governing irrigation water service to consumers of the State by an unspecified date.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the Agricultural and Food Security Committee of the Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i and Hawai'i Farm Bureau.

Your Committees received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Department of Agriculture.

Your Committees find that there are serious concerns that former irrigation system users continue to be assessed water toll charges and acreage assessments when they have not used any water



from an irrigation system. This measure aims to ensure that former irrigation system users, who have weir, water meter, or water flow measuring instruments that are removed by the Department of Agriculture, are not charged for the use of water, but also prevent erroneous water toll charges and acreage assessments.

According to testimony received by your Committees, the proposed new language amended in section 1 of this measure is inconsistent with the water service application process.

Accordingly, your Committees have amended this measure by:

- (1) Deleting the proposed new language in section 1 of this measure and replacing it with language that requires the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture or their designee to annually notify all irrigation users by mail and conduct in-person visits on procedures to remove unused irrigation system water meters and stop acreage assessments; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Agriculture and Environment and Water and Land that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2495, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2495, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Agriculture and
Environment and Water and Land,


LORRAINE R. INOUÉ Chair


MIKE GABBARD, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Second Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
AEN

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 2495	Committee Referral: AEN/WTL, WAM	Date: 1/31/24		
<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)	✓			
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim" (VC)				✓
DECOITE, Lynn				✓
RHOADS, Karl	✓			
AWA, Brenton	✓			
TOTAL	3	0	0	2
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: Hal Rhoads				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

***Only one measure per Record of Votes**

