

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 19 2025

RE: H.B. No. 1237
H.D. 1
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Agriculture and Environment, to which was referred H.B. No. 1237, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO BIOSECURITY,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to appropriate funds to the Department of Agriculture for agricultural biosecurity and the prevention, detection, and control of invasive species in Maui County.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Agriculture University of Hawai'i System, Hawaii Invasive Species Council, Maui Invasive Species Committee, Molokai Subcommittee of the Maui Invasive Species Committee, Office of the Mayor of the County of Maui, one member of the Maui County Council, Hawai'i Farm Bureau, Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species, Maui Chamber of Commerce, Mālama Learning Center, Hawai'i Farmers Union United, and seventeen individuals.

Your Committee recognizes that the jurisdiction of Maui County covers three islands: Maui, Molokai, and Lanai. Your Committee finds that Molokai lacks a quarantine facility, there is no island invasive species committee on Lanai, and both islands historically have not had dedicated state agricultural inspectors. Your Committee further recognizes that the cost of controlling



invasive species after they become established is significantly higher than the cost of prevention and early intervention. According to testimony received by your Committee, pests such as the little fire ant, coconut rhinoceros beetle, and coqui frog have not yet been detected on Molokai or Lanai, making prevention efforts all the more urgent. This measure aims to safeguard local agriculture and also preserve the environment of the islands in Maui County as repositories for native species and agricultural biodiversity.

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 H.B. No. 1237, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1237, H.D. 1, 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-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
AEN

Bill / Resolution No.:* HB 1237 HDI	Committee Referral: AEN, WAM	Date: 03-17-25		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313 </div> </div>				
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: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted </div>				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: small;"> <div>Distribution:</div> <div>Original</div> <div>Yellow</div> <div>Pink</div> <div>Goldenrod</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: x-small; margin-top: 5px;"> <div>File with Committee Report</div> <div>Clerk's Office</div> <div>Drafting Agency</div> <div>Committee File Copy</div> </div>				

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