

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1220

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 14 , 2025

RE: S.B. No. 1257
S.D. 1
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems, to which was referred S.B. No. 1257, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL CRIME,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish and appropriate funds for a permanent Agricultural Crimes Task Force to address the issue of agricultural crime in the State; and
- (2) Establish an offense of agricultural crime for committing certain property crimes on agricultural property.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Agriculture; Department of Law Enforcement; Hawai'i Farm Bureau; Hawaii Cattlemen's Council; Ohana Unity Party; Griffith Livestock Company LLC; Ponoholo Ranch; Hawai'i Food+ Policy; and numerous individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of the Attorney General.

2025-2567 SB1257 HD1 HSCR HMSO



Your Committee finds that agricultural crimes are becoming more frequent and pose a serious risk to Hawaii's farmers and ranchers. These offenses not only result in financial hardship but also weaken food security and disrupt the agricultural economy. This measure creates an Agricultural Crimes Task Force within the Department of Agriculture to strengthen enforcement efforts, enhance coordination with law enforcement, and develop strategies to prevent agricultural crimes, ensuring greater security for the State's farming communities.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

Your Committee respectfully requests your Committee on Finance, should it deliberate on this measure, to consider an appropriation amount of \$500,000.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 1257, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 1257, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Agriculture & Food
Systems,


KIRSTIN KAHALOA, Chair



Record of Votes of the Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

Bill/Resolution No.: <i>SB 1257, SD 7</i>	Committee Referral: <i>AGR, JHA, FIN</i>	Date: <i>3/12/25</i>
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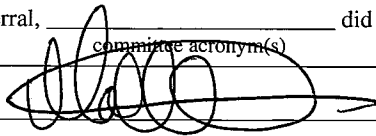
The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.

The recommendation is to: Pass, unamended (as is) Pass, with amendments (HD) Hold
 Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)

AGR Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. KAHALOA, Kirstin (C)	X			
2. KUSCH, Matthias (VC)	X			
3. LOWEN, Nicole E.	X			
4. PERRUSO, Amy A.	X			
5. QUINLAN, Sean	X			
6. WARD, Gene				X
TOTAL (6)	5			1

The recommendation is: Adopted Not Adopted
 If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation.
committee acronym(s)

Vice Chair's or designee's signature: _____



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