

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1176

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 11 , 2025

RE: S.B. No. 448
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. 448, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds to the Agribusiness Development Corporation to acquire a conservation easement in Central Oahu.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Agriculture; Agribusiness Development Corporation; Hawai'i Farm Bureau; and Hawai'i Farmers Union.

Your Committee finds that conservation easements serve as a tool to preserve agricultural lands, supporting the State's goal of increasing local food production. Despite ambitious mandates, such as requiring thirty percent of public school food to be locally sourced by 2030 and fifty percent of state department produce purchases to be local by 2050, stronger action is needed to protect agricultural lands for future food production. This measure appropriates funds to the Agribusiness Development Corporation to acquire a conservation easement on agricultural lands in Central Oahu, ensuring long-term agricultural viability.

2025-2475 SB448 HD1 HSCR HMSO



Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Clarifying that the appropriation is for the Agribusiness Development Corporation to acquire a conservation easement on agricultural lands in Central Oahu;
- (2) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

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. 448, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 448, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Finance.

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


KIRSTIN KAHALOA, Chair



