

THE SENATE
KA 'AHA KENEKOA

THE THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2025

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Monday, January 27, 2025
TIME: 1:00 PM
PLACE: Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

PHOTO ID REQUIRED FOR ENTRANCE TO THE STATE CAPITOL
BUILDING HOURS: 7AM TO 5PM, MONDAY - FRIDAY

The Legislature is accepting written, videoconference, and in-person testimony at public hearings.
A live stream of all Senate Standing Committee meetings will be available on the [Senate YouTube Channel](#).

A G E N D A

SB 559

[Status &
Testimony](#)

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE I OF THE HAWAII STATE CONSTITUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND PROTECT THE INHERENT AND INALIENABLE RIGHT OF ALL PEOPLE TO CLEAN WATER AND AIR, A HEALTHFUL ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE, HEALTHY NATIVE ECOSYSTEMS, AND BEACHES.
Proposes a constitutional amendment to ensure that the inherent and inalienable right of the people, including future generations, to clean water and air, a healthful environment and climate, healthy native ecosystems, and beaches, shall be protected and shall not be infringed.

AEN, JDC/WAM

SB 552

[Status &
Testimony](#)

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.
Requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a Healthy Soils Program. Requires an annual report to the Legislature. Appropriates funds.

AEN, WAM

SB 678

[Status &
Testimony](#)

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.
Establishes the Agricultural Development and Food Security Special Fund. Requires a portion of the Environmental Response, Energy, and Food Security Tax to be deposited into the special fund. Appropriates funds for the Department of Agriculture in an amount equal to three per cent of the State Budget.

AEN, WAM

SB 693

[Status &
Testimony](#)

RELATING TO THE FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM.
Appropriates funds for the continued implementation of the Food Hub Pilot Program.

AEN, WAM

<u>SB 496</u> <u>Status & Testimony</u>	RELATING TO AGRICULTURE. Requires the Board of Agriculture to define the terms "bona fide farmer" and "bona fide agricultural activity". Requires a report to the Legislature.	AEN, WAM
<u>SB 688</u> <u>Status & Testimony</u>	RELATING TO AGRICULTURE. Appropriates funds to establish grant specialist positions within the Department of Agriculture.	AEN, WAM
<u>SB 245</u> <u>Status & Testimony</u>	RELATING TO OWNERSHIP OF AGRICULTURAL LAND. Beginning 1/1/2026, prohibits certain entities from owning, purchasing, or acquiring ownership of agricultural lands.	AEN, JDC/WAM
<u>SB 387</u> <u>Status & Testimony</u>	RELATING TO SERVICE ANIMALS. Requires the Department of Agriculture to be responsible for all neighbor island inspection permit fees for service animals that are located in the State and are being transported for release at Kona, Kahului, or Lihue airports. Appropriates funds.	AEN, WAM
<u>SB 328</u> <u>Status & Testimony</u>	RELATING TO TAXATION. Establishes an income tax credit for capital infrastructure costs incurred in the conversion of a dairy farm to a hog farm.	AEN, WAM
<u>SB 329</u> <u>Status & Testimony</u>	RELATING TO WATER POLLUTION. Requires at least fifty per cent of treatment works effluent to be R-1 recycled water by January 1, 2045. Amends the year by which no treated or raw sewage shall be discharged into state waters.	AEN, WAM
<u>SB 681</u> <u>Status & Testimony</u>	RELATING TO THE GENERAL EXCISE TAX. Repeals the exemption to the general excise tax for agricultural businesses engaged in the production of genetically engineered agricultural products.	AEN, WAM
<u>SB 765</u> <u>Status & Testimony</u>	RELATING TO BEEKEEPING. Clarifies the registration process for beekeepers with the Department of Agriculture. Requires the Department of Agriculture to provide guidance and support to registered beekeepers to help beekeepers adhere to certain industry standards and best management practices. Establishes a limitation on liability for any registered beekeeper who follows industry standards and best practices. Appropriates funds.	AEN, WAM/CPN

Decision Making to follow, if time permits.

All testimony received by the Hawai'i Senate is posted on the Hawai'i Legislature's website, which is accessible to the public. Please do not include private information that you do not want disclosed to the public.

Please go to the Legislature's website, <https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov>, to submit **written testimony** at least 24 hours prior to the hearing. Create a free account on the website, or sign in to an existing account, then click on the "Participate" drop down menu and select the "Submit Testimony" option to get started. While submitting your written testimony, you will be prompted to indicate if you would also like to testify at the hearing in-person or remotely via videoconference.

Please note the following:

- The number of oral testifiers and/or time allotted to each testifier may be limited by the Chair when necessary to adhere to the committee hearing schedule. We may not be able to accommodate everyone who requests to testify orally.
- Testifiers for this hearing will be limited to **2 minutes** each.

If you wish to **testify via videoconference** during the hearing, please review the detailed step-by-step instructions for testimony procedures before you submit your written testimony. Here's a direct link to the instructions: <https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/docs/testimonyinstructions.pdf>

For general help navigating the committee hearing process, please contact the Public Access Room at (808) 587-0478 or par@capitol.hawaii.gov. You can also visit their website at <https://lrb.hawaii.gov/par/>.

For special assistance: The cable TV broadcast and/or live stream of this meeting will include closed captioning. If you need an auxiliary aid/service or other accommodation due to a disability, please call the committee clerk at the telephone number listed below or email AENcommittee@capitol.hawaii.gov. Requests made as early as possible have a greater likelihood of being fulfilled.

For amended notices: Measures that have been deleted are stricken through and measures that have been added are underscored. If a measure is both underscored and stricken through, that measure has been deleted from the agenda.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL THE COMMITTEE CLERK AT (808) 586-6830.

Senator Mike Gabbard
Chair