

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, March 10, 2025  
TIME: 1:01 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

<a href="#">HB 428, HD1</a> <a href="#">(HSCR868)</a> <a href="#">Status &amp; Testimony</a>	RELATING TO FARM TO FAMILIES. Establishes the Hawaii Farm to Families Program to alleviate food shortages in the State. Requires reports to the Legislature prior to the Regular Sessions of 2026 and 2027. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)	AEN, WAM
<a href="#">HB 773, HD1</a> <a href="#">(HSCR872)</a> <a href="#">Status &amp; Testimony</a>	RELATING TO AGRICULTURE. Appropriates funds for grant specialist positions to assist farmers and ranchers in meeting the requirements to receive grants offered by the United States Department of Agriculture, State, counties, or private entities. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)	AEN, WAM
<a href="#">HB 858, HD1</a> <a href="#">(HSCR875)</a> <a href="#">Status &amp; Testimony</a>	RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS. Requires the Department of Agriculture to revitalize and enhance the agricultural statistics program to collect data on local agricultural interests. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)	AEN, WAM
<a href="#">HB 984, HD2</a> <a href="#">(HSCR1108)</a> <a href="#">Status &amp; Testimony</a>	RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL LOANS. Updates the agricultural loan program by lowering interest rates, increasing and standardizing loan limits, and reducing the number of credit denials. Includes food hubs as an eligible entity for Class E loans. Authorizes the agricultural loan program to issue lines of credit. Creates a new class of loans to encourage large scale agriculture of import replacement crops grown for the farm to state program. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD2)	AEN, WAM

<p><a href="#">HB 1149, HD1</a> (HSCR1001) <a href="#">Status &amp; Testimony</a></p>	<p>RELATING TO GENERAL EXCISE TAX EXEMPTIONS. Repeals the general excise tax exemption for amounts received by independent sugar cane farmers. Repeals the general excise tax exemption for amounts received by contractors of the Patient-Centered Community Care program that is established by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs pursuant to title 38 United States Code section 8153. Effective 1/1/3000. (HD1)</p>	<p>AEN, WAM</p>
<p><a href="#">HB 1450, HD2</a> (HSCR1109) <a href="#">Status &amp; Testimony</a></p>	<p>RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL CLIMATE RESILIENCY. Establishes a three-year climate-resilient food systems grant pilot program, to be administered by the Department of Agriculture. Requires reports to the Legislature. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD2)</p>	<p>AEN, WAM</p>
<p><a href="#">HB 1497, HD1</a> (HSCR878) <a href="#">Status &amp; Testimony</a></p>	<p>RELATING TO AGRICULTURE. Requires and appropriates funds for the Department of Agriculture to develop an online reporting tool for restricted use pesticide reporting. Appropriates funds to convert temporary environmental health specialist III positions into permanent positions. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)</p>	<p>AEN, WAM</p>

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 **1 minute** 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](mailto:par@capitol.hawaii.gov). You can also visit their website at <https://lrh.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](mailto: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.

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Senator Mike Gabbard  
Chair