

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

75

Honolulu, Hawaii

February 10, 2015

RE: H.B. No. 850
H.D. 1

Honorable Joseph M. Souki
Speaker, House of Representatives
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2015
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Agriculture, to which was referred H.B. No. 850 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to address the budgetary shortfalls experienced by the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources' Cooperative Extension Service (Service) by appropriating moneys for critical unfunded positions.

The Department of Agriculture, University of Hawaii System, Hawaii Farm Bureau, Maui County Farm Bureau, Hawaii Farmers Union United, Three Roads Farm, Hawaii Macadamia Nut Association, Kauai Coffee Company, LLC, Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association, Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii, and numerous concerned individuals supported this measure.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the appropriated amount to an unspecified sum;
- (2) Changing its effective date to January 20, 2050, to encourage further discussion; and

HB850 HD1 HSCR AGR HMS 2015-1637

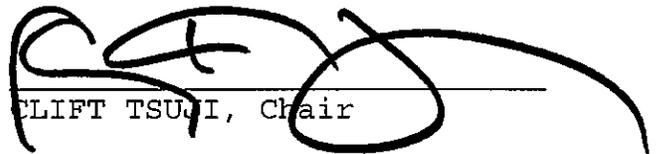


- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for consistency and style.

Should the Committee on Finance deliberate this measure further, your Committee respectfully requests that it consider appropriating \$700,000 for critical unfunded positions in the Service. Although the Service provides valuable tools that the public can use to strengthen communities and sustain Hawaii's agricultural economy, over the last 20 years, the Service has experienced a 43 percent decrease in extension agents who serve the various counties.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Agriculture that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 850, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 850, H.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Higher Education.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Agriculture,



CLIFT TSUI, Chair



State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
The Twenty-eighth Legislature

HSCR 75

Record of Votes of the Committee on Agriculture

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 850	Committee Referral: AGR, HED, FIN	Date: 2/5/2015		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
AGR Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. TSUJI, Clift (C)	/			
2. ONISHI, Richard H.K. (VC)	/			
3. BROWER, Tom	/			
4. CACHOLA, Romy M.	/			
5. CHOY, Isaac W.	/			
6. ITO, Ken	/			
7. KAWAKAMI, Derek S.K.	/			
8. KONG, Sam Satoru	/			
9. OHNO, Takashi	/			
10. TOKIOKA, James Kunane	/			
11. WOODSON, Justin H.	/			
12. MATSUMOTO, Lauren Kealohilani	/			
13. WARD, Gene	/			
TOTAL (13)	13			
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">committee acronym(s)</div>				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: _____ 				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				