

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 24 2017

RE: H.B. No. 480  
H.D. 1  
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2017  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Higher Education, to which was referred  
H.B. No. 480, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to support the  
Hawaii Community College agriculture program and the University of  
Hawaii at Hilo's agricultural farm by appropriating funds for one  
full-time farm coordinator position and for equipment for the  
Hawaii Community College's agriculture program.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure  
from the University of Hawai'i System, Department of Agriculture,  
and Hawai'i Farm Bureau.

Your Committee finds that student interest in the Hawaii  
Community College agriculture program has grown in recent years  
and the program averages around thirty majors each year. The  
program prepares students for employment in government service,  
agribusiness, horticulture, livestock, flowers and foliage,  
landscape, macadamia nuts, papaya, and coffee industries. Your  
Committee notes that, currently, production at the University of  
Hawaii at Hilo's agricultural farm, which serves as a live  
instructional laboratory for Hawaii Community College and  
University of Hawaii at Hilo students, is unable to meet demand.



Your Committee further finds that the Island of Hawaii could be a strong agricultural contributor to the State and help Hawaii increase its self-sufficiency and sustainability efforts. In addition to other potential agriculture benefits, the Island of Hawaii offers nutrient rich soil, a tropical climate, and an abundance of affordable land. Your Committee additionally finds that while fostering a new generation of agriculturalists, it is important that the State ensure public resources are being used for efficient and collaborative efforts that support a holistic view of agriculture for the Island of Hawaii.

Accordingly, your Committee has amended this measure by:

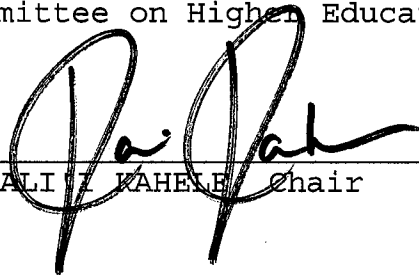
- (1) Deleting the appropriation for the hiring of a farm coordinator to support the instructional activities of the Hawaii Community College;
- (2) Inserting a blank appropriation amount for the Hawaii Community College and University of Hawaii at Hilo, in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and the Agribusiness Development Corporation, to study the following:
  - (A) Areas in which the agriculture programs at Hawaii Community College and the University of Hawaii at Hilo can collaborate to maximize resource efficiency and minimize redundancy;
  - (B) New agriculture opportunities on the Island of Hawaii; and
  - (C) The development of a holistic approach to the growth of agriculture and agricultural learning opportunities on the Island of Hawaii;
- (3) Inserting language requiring the Hawaii Community College to submit a report to the Legislature prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2018;
- (4) Deleting the appropriation to the Hawaii Community College for equipment for its agriculture program; and



- (5) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Higher Education that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 480, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 480, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Higher Education,




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KAIALI'I KAHENE, Chair



The Senate  
 Twenty-Ninth Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Higher Education**  
**HRE**

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
HB 480, HD 1	HRE, WAM	3/14/2017		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311	<input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310		
<input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
KAHELE, Kaiali'i (C)	✓			
KIDANI, Michelle N. (VC)	✓			
ESPERO, Will	✓			
KEITH-AGARAN, Gilbert S.C.	✓			
TANIGUCHI, Brian T.				✓
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>			<b>1</b>
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <span style="margin-left: 200px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted</span>				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
				
<b>Distribution:</b>				
Original	Yellow	Pink	Goldenrod	
File with Committee Report	Clerk's Office	Drafting Agency	Committee File Copy	

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes