

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

233

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 12 2021

RE: S.B. No. 1054

S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-First State Legislature
Regular Session of 2021
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Agriculture and Environment, to which was referred S.B. No. 1054 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE BROWNFIELDS CLEANUP
REVOLVING LOAN FUND,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to enable funds from the brownfields cleanup revolving loan fund to be used for sub-grants to eligible entities for brownfields site assessments, cleanup, and monitoring activities.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; Department of Health; Office of Planning; and City and County of Honolulu Department of Planning and Permitting.

Your Committee finds that the Hawaii brownfields cleanup revolving loan fund was capitalized with funds from a United States Environmental Protection Agency brownfields revolving loan fund grant. In 2012, the grant was closed when all grant funds had been expended for cleanup loans, and a closeout agreement was executed between the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism. Under the closeout agreement, revolving loan funds may be used for loans and sub-grants to eligible entities for brownfields site



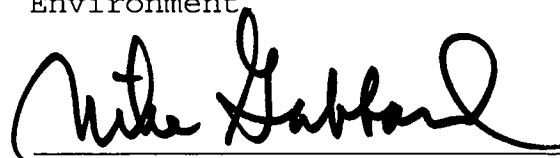
assessment activities, sampling, and related activities in addition to cleanup activities.

Your Committee further finds that the statutory authority for the existing loan fund strictly limits use of revolving loan funds to loans and cleanup activities. Expansion of the loan fund authority to enable sub-grants for cleanups, environmental site assessments, and related activities, in conformance with the closeout agreement, will allow for greater use of the grant funds for eligible brownfields projects and facilitate redevelopment of lands that are underutilized due to perceived or real contamination. Accordingly, this measure expands activities for which sub-grants may be awarded to eligible entities for brownfields site assessments, cleanup, and monitoring activities. This measure makes more productive use of the revolving loan funds to advance eligible public and non-profit projects of community benefit, such as accommodations for park and open space and affordable housing.

Your Committee has amended this measure by 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 Agriculture and Environment that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 1054, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 1054, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Agriculture and
Environment



MIKE GABBARD, Chair



