

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 145

Honolulu, Hawaii

February 12, 2015

RE: H.B. No. 509
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. 509 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE PROTECTION OF TARO,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to improve protection for wetland taro lands (lo'i kalo) and ancient wetland agricultural structures on undeveloped state-owned or -acquired conservation lands for Hawaii's long-term future food security and well-being by defining and classifying taro lands as a fourth class of public lands.

The Taro Security and Purity Task Force, a member of the Kauai County Council, a member of the Maui County Council, a member of the Hawaii County Council, Hawaii Farmers Union United, Hawai'i Land Restoration Institute, Three Roads Farm, Waihuena Farm, Regenerations International Botanical Garden, and numerous concerned individuals supported this measure. The Department of Agriculture supported the intent of this measure. The Department of Land and Natural Resources provided comments.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Amending the definition of "taro lands" to mean any undeveloped public lands in the land use conservation district in wetland taro cultivation before statehood or that were traditional taro lands in the land use

HB509 HD1 HSCR AGR HMS 2015-1600-1



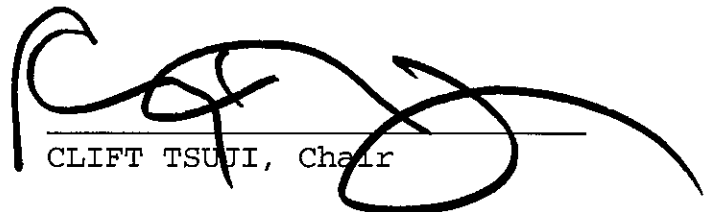
conservation district retaining historic structural evidence of lo'i kalo; and

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

Your Committee suggests to the Committee on Water & Land and the Committee on Finance, should they deliberate on this bill, that an apparent inconsistency in the bill should be addressed. Section 5 appropriates funds to the Board of Land and Natural Resources for the purpose of identifying lands classified as fourth class taro lands. However, section 4 does not require the Board to create an inventory identifying fourth class taro lands.

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. 509, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 509, H.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Water & Land.

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



CLIFT TSUJI, Chair



State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
The Twenty-eighth Legislature

HSCR 145

Record of Votes of the Committee on Agriculture

Bill/Resolution No.: H B 509	Committee Referral: AGR, WAL, FIN	Date: 2/5/20		
<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: 10pt;">committee acronym(s)</div>				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: _____ 				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				