

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

2075

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB - 8 2016

RE: S.B. No. 2137
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2016
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture, to which was referred S.B. No. 2137 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to establish an on-farm mentoring program within the Department of Agriculture to encourage the development and implementation of a whole farm system approach to agriculture, to improve food security and self-sufficiency in the State.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the University of Hawai'i System, Hawaii Farmers Union United, Hawai'i Farm Bureau, Maui Farmers Union United, Hawaii Tropical Fruit Growers, Farm Lovers Farmers Markets, and seven individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Agriculture.

Your Committee finds that a whole farm system approach to agriculture can improve food security and benefit the local economy through the reduction of production costs and promotion and manufacture of locally sourced inputs. Teaching a new generation of farmers to use a whole farm system approach will create an alternative method of farming that appeals to many young farmers across the State. Your Committee further finds that the farming community of Hawaii contains institutional knowledge of great value to new and future generations of farmers; however, Hawaii's farmers are aging and if opportunities are not created

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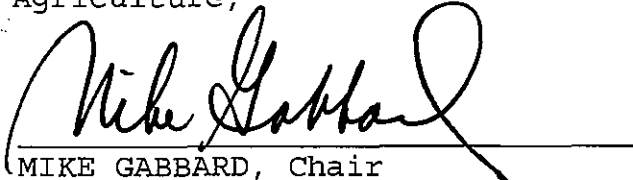
for experienced farmers to pass on their knowledge to new farmers, much knowledge will be lost. Your Committee therefore finds that on-farm mentoring programs benefit the State and the farming community by creating opportunities for experienced farmers to work with and educate new farmers working directly on the farm.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Deleting language to remove the grant provision portion of the on-farm mentoring program;
- (2) Amending the appropriation to be an appropriation of general funds to the Department of Agriculture to support existing on-farm mentoring programs and for a pilot program in Maui, rather than a grant to existing on-farm mentoring programs; and
- (3) 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 Water, Land, and Agriculture that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2137, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2137, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

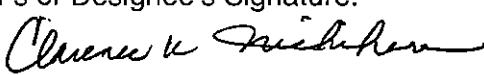
Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Water, Land, and
Agriculture,


MIKE GABBARD, Chair



The Senate
Twenty-Eighth Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture
WLA

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB2137	Committee Referral: WLA, WAM	Date: 02-03-16		
<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
GABBARD, Mike (C)	/			
NISHIHARA, Clarence K. (VC)	/			
DELA CRUZ, Donovan M.				/
RIVIERE, Gil	/			
RUDERMAN, Russell E.	/			
SHIMABUKURO, Maile S.L.	/			
THIELEN, Laura H.	/			
WAKAI, Glenn	/			
SLOM, Sam				/
TOTAL	7			2
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes