

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 63

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 10 2021

RE: S.B. No. 337  
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. 337 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to establish and appropriate monies for a crop reimbursement pilot program to reimburse farming operations in the State for the costs of acquiring cover crop seeds or green manure.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Agriculture, University of Hawai'i System, Kauai Climate Action Coalition, Ka Ohana O Na Pua, Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action, Our Revolution Hawaii, Hawaii Farmers Union United Kona Chapter, Pesticide Action Network North America, Hawai'i Farm Bureau, Hawai'i SEED, Supersistence, Rooted Kekahi Me Ka Aina, and sixty-eight individuals.

Your Committee finds that the use of cover crops and green manure increases agricultural productivity and aligns with the State's integrated sustainability goals. Plants used for this purpose, including grasses, legumes, and forbs, add nutrients to the soil, act as windbreaks, assist with water retention, provide habitats for beneficial insects, and help to prevent soil erosion. This measure incentivizes the use of management practices that



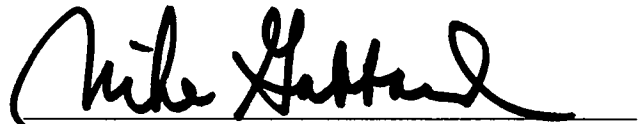
enhance the quality and sustainability of Hawaii's agricultural lands.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Decreasing the reimbursement percentage incurred for cover crop seeds or green manure from one hundred percent to seventy-five percent to be consistent with past reimbursement programs and to reflect the finding that reimbursement programs are beneficial to the State when the farmer has an investment of time, money, and effort in the program's results;
- (2) Providing that applicants be screened and rated on the quality of their cover crop and green manure practices by a review panel comprising of representatives from the Department of Agriculture, University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, and industry organizations; 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 Agriculture and Environment that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 337, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 337, 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



The Senate  
Thirty-First Legislature  
State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Agriculture and Environment**  
**AEN**

Bill / Resolution No.:* <b>SB 337</b>	Committee Referral: <b>AEN, WAM</b>	Date: <b>02/05/2021</b>		
<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)	✓			
ACASIO, Laura	✓			
RHOADS, Karl	✓			
FEVELLA, Kurt	✓			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>			
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
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