

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 651

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 17 , 2023

RE: H.B. No. 996
H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2023
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Water & Land, to which was referred H.B. No. 996 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL LANDS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Repeal the provision for farm dwelling and farm employee housing on Important Agricultural Lands; and
- (2) Adopts a new provision for farm cluster housing as an incentive for the designation of lands as Important Agricultural Lands.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Chief Housing Officer; Office of the Governor; Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; Department of Agriculture; Office of Planning and Sustainable Development; and Hawai'i Farm Bureau. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from one individual.

Your Committee finds that the lack of affordable housing for farmers and farm labor is an impediment to increasing food and non-food agricultural production in Hawaii. Your Committee further finds there is still a need for a means to develop housing




for farmers and farm employees on lands designated as Important Agricultural Lands that reduces the cost and time required to supply housing and ensures that the housing is used in conjunction with and located on an active farm and occupied by bona fide farmers and farm employees. This measure is intended to provide a clear limited incentive to designate productive agricultural lands as Important Agricultural Lands.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Clarifying that the agricultural plan and agricultural tax dedication verification shall be submitted to the appropriate county agency for review and comment, and may be submitted to the Department of Agriculture for review and comment, before county action on the application;
- (2) Changing the effective date to June 30, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Water & Land that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 996, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 996, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Water & Land,


LINDA ICHIYAMA, Chair



State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
The Thirty-second Legislature

HSCR 651

Record of Votes of the Committee on Water & Land

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 996	Committee Referral: WAL, JHA	Date: 02/07/2023		
<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)				
WAL Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. ICHIYAMA, Linda (C)	✓			
2. POEPOE, Mahina (VC)	✓			
3. CHUN, Cory M.	✓			
4. GANADEN, Sonny	✓			
5. HASHEM, Mark J.	✓			
6. MORIKAWA, Dee	✓			
7. TAKAYAMA, Gregg	✓			
8. SOUZA, Kanani	✓			
TOTAL (8)	8			
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: 0.8em;">committee acronym(s)</div>				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature:				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				