STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2512



Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 1 6 2024

RE: S.B. No. 2060 S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi President of the Senate Thirty-Second State Legislature Regular Session of 2024 State of Hawaii

Sir

Your Committee on Higher Education, to which was referred S.B. No. 2060 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish an Educational Support Associate position within the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources' Kona Cooperative Extension; and
- (2) Make an appropriation.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the University of Hawai'i System, Hawai'i Farm Bureau, Hawai'i Food+ Policy, Synergistic Hawaii Agriculture Council, Maui Coffee Association, and seven individuals.

Your Committee finds that the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) of the University of Hawaii at Manoa provides valuable support to the State's agriculture industry. Through the extension program, extension agents from CTAHR provide non-formal science-based education; serve as an outreach component between the agriculture community and the University of Hawaii; and extend practical applications of science to support local food



STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2512

systems, healthy living, youth development, and land stewardship. Your Committee further finds that despite its critical work, the Kona Research Station's sole extension agent is currently supported by only one educational support associate position, which has historically been one hundred percent grant funded. Due to various grant provisions, the educational support associate is limited to work only within the scope of funded projects and is unable to address the needs and challenges of the other industries in the cooperative extension program. Therefore, this measure addresses chronic staffing shortages at the Kona Research Station to ensure continuity of research and extension activities that support the various industries thriving in Hawaii County.

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 Higher Education that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2060, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2060, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

> Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committee on Higher Education,

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DONNA MERCADO KIM, Chair



The Senate Thirty-Second Legislature State of Hawaiʻi

Record of Votes Committee on Higher Education HRE

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Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 2060	Committee Referral:Date:HRE, WAM02-13-24				
The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to:					
The Recommendation is:					
Pass, unamended Pass, with amendments Hold Recommit 2312 2311 2310 2313					
Members		Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
KIM, Donna Mercado (C)					
KIDANI, Michelle N. (VC)					
FUKUNAGA, Carol					
HASHIMOTO, Troy N.					
FEVELLA, Kurt					
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TOTAL		4			1
Recommendation:					
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