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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that agriculture is  
2 vitally important to Hawaii. Agriculture not only plays an  
3 important role in the State's economy by providing a stage for  
4 tourism, employment opportunities, and products for export, but  
5 it also performs a public service by perpetuating a rural  
6 lifestyle for Hawaii's residents and providing stewardship for  
7 Hawaii's lands and water.

8           With the demise of the plantations that once controlled  
9 vast acres of pineapple and sugar, it is imperative that  
10 Hawaii's agricultural industry diversify. The agricultural  
11 industry should also explore new opportunities as prime  
12 agricultural land becomes available.

13           Currently, Hawaii's agriculture and value-added products  
14 contribute \$2.4 billion to the State's economy and employ more  
15 than thirty-eight thousand people. During the past twenty  
16 years, the value of diversified agriculture in Hawaii more than  
17 doubled, reaching a record \$370,900,000 in farm-level revenues  
18 in 2002. The prime agricultural lands released from sugar and



1 pineapple production present a rare window of opportunity to  
2 further agricultural development. At present, about one hundred  
3 thousand acres of former sugar and pineapple land lie fallow,  
4 awaiting economically viable agribusinesses. Recent estimates  
5 suggest that if all this land could be put to productive use in  
6 successful agricultural ventures, an additional \$1.7 billion to  
7 \$4.4 billion could be added to the State's economy.

8 To provide the necessary support for the transition of  
9 Hawaii's agricultural industry from plantation agriculture to  
10 diversified agriculture, more resources must be directed toward  
11 agricultural research and market development.

12 Agricultural research is the foundation upon which Hawaii's  
13 agricultural industry can remain competitive in an increasingly  
14 global market. To maximize the opportunities for expanding the  
15 agricultural industry and to take advantage of thousands of  
16 acres of available prime agricultural farmlands, production-  
17 driven research is of paramount importance.

18 The legislature finds that the Hawaii Agriculture Research  
19 Center, the University of Hawaii's college of tropical  
20 agriculture and human resources, the department of agriculture,  
21 and the United States Department of Agriculture Pacific Basin  
22 Agricultural Research Center should work collaboratively to



1 expand their agricultural research efforts. These research  
2 organizations are an important resource in the State's effort to  
3 strengthen and improve the agricultural industry, revitalize the  
4 economy, and expand employment opportunities for residents.

5 The legislature further finds that the Hawaii Farm Bureau  
6 Federation is a non-profit agricultural organization  
7 representing the interests of, and exemplifying a strong  
8 commitment to, the agricultural industry in Hawaii and can  
9 ensure that agricultural research and marketing meet the needs  
10 of the industry's farmers and ranchers. Moreover, the Hawaii  
11 Farm Bureau Federation has frequently partnered with  
12 institutions like the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center,  
13 University of Hawaii's college of tropical agriculture and human  
14 resources, and the department of agriculture on many research  
15 and market development projects. The Hawaii Farm Bureau  
16 Federation has also been working with all types of commodity  
17 organizations, including sugar, pineapple, papaya, macadamia,  
18 coffee, flower, fruit, vegetable, aquaculture, seed corn,  
19 forestry, and livestock organizations to formulate the research  
20 needs for the entire agricultural industry. Therefore, the  
21 legislature finds that the logical organization to oversee and  
22 expend the funding for agricultural research and market



1 development is the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation. Hawaii must  
 2 diversify its economic base beyond a reliance on tourism. A  
 3 revived and revitalized state agricultural industry promises not  
 4 only to diversify Hawaii's economy but also to sustain and  
 5 stabilize Hawaii's food supply and protect the open space and  
 6 lifestyle that both residents and visitors value.

7 The purpose of this Act is to provide funding for the  
 8 Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation to conduct agricultural research  
 9 and market development.

10 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
 11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,000,000 or so much  
 12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007 for the  
 13 Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation to conduct agricultural research  
 14 and market development.

15 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
 16 agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

17 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2006.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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HB 2774

**Report Title:**

Agricultural Research and Market Development; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates \$1,000,000 for the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation to conduct agricultural research and market development.

