
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE EDUCATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that, with the decline of
2 the sugar industry, agricultural lands are returning to a new
3 era of small diversified agricultural farms. Crops such as
4 coffee, macadamia nuts, flowers and foliage, and specialty
5 exotic fruits not only provide fresh produce and flowers to
6 Hawaii's markets, but also have become major exports to
7 destinations around the world. The agriculture industry
8 generated and contributed approximately \$2,900,000,000 last year
9 to the State's economy.

10 The maintenance of this growing and vital industry requires
11 a continued supply of educated and trained individuals who can
12 provide the necessary expertise to meet the future needs of
13 agriculture in the State.

14 The purpose of this Act is to ensure the continued supply
15 of qualified individuals to support and maintain the agriculture
16 industry by providing a comprehensive vocational agriculture
17 education program in the public schools.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
3 and to read as follows:

4 "§302A- Vocational agriculture education. (a) The
5 department shall establish and administer a vocational
6 agriculture education program. The program shall include
7 adequate staffing of individuals trained or experienced in the
8 field of vocational agriculture to coordinate the vocational
9 agriculture education program and to provide assistance to
10 school districts for the coordination of the activities of
11 student agricultural organizations and associations.

- 12 (b) The vocational agriculture education program shall:
- 13 (1) Assess the agricultural needs of the State and devise
14 methods of meeting those needs with the vocational
15 agriculture education program;
 - 16 (2) Assist school districts in establishing vocational
17 agriculture programs;
 - 18 (3) Review school district applications for approval of
19 vocational agriculture programs;
 - 20 (4) Evaluate existing programs;

- 1 (5) Plan research and studies for the improvement of
2 curriculum materials for specialty areas of vocational
3 agriculture;
- 4 (6) Ensure that the standards and criteria developed under
5 this section satisfy the mandates of federally
6 assisted vocational education;
- 7 (7) Develop in-service programs for teachers and
8 administrators of vocational agriculture;
- 9 (8) Review applications for vocational agriculture teacher
10 certification;
- 11 (9) Assist in teacher recruitment and placement in
12 vocational agriculture programs;
- 13 (10) Serve as a liaison with the Future Farmers of America,
14 representatives of business, industry, and appropriate
15 public agencies, and institutions of higher education
16 to facilitate dissemination of information;
- 17 (11) Promote improvement of vocational agriculture
18 programs;
- 19 (12) Assist in the development of adult and continuing
20 education programs in vocational agriculture; and
- 21 (13) Establish an advisory task force of agriculturists,
22 who represent the diverse areas of the agricultural



1 industry in the State, that shall make annual
 2 recommendations including, but not limited to, the
 3 development of curriculum, staffing, and strategies to
 4 establish a source of trained and qualified
 5 individuals in agriculture and strategies for
 6 articulating the state program in vocational
 7 agriculture education, including youth leadership
 8 throughout the public schools.

9 (c) The department may adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91
 10 to effectuate this section."

11 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
 12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$, or so
 13 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007, for
 14 the purposes of this Act.

15 SECTION 4. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the
 16 department of education for the purposes of this Act.

17 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

18 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2006.

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INTRODUCED BY: Cindy Evans
[Signature]
Hono Jureha

Report Title:

Vocational Agriculture Education

Description:

Provides a comprehensive vocational agriculture education program in the department of education.

