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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE EDUCATION.

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

1           SECTION 1. With the decline of the sugar industry, the  
2 legislature finds that 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 continuous 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 establishing 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 program. (a)**

5 The 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 program and to  
9 provide assistance to school districts for the coordination of  
10 the activities of student agricultural organizations and  
11 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 on the development of curriculum,  
3           staffing, and strategies to establish a source of  
4           trained and qualified individuals in agriculture and  
5           strategies for developing the state program in  
6           vocational agriculture education, including youth  
7           leadership throughout the public schools.

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

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

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

16           SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

17           SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2006.

HB1843, SD1

**Report Title:**

Vocational Agriculture Education

**Description:**

Provides a comprehensive vocational agriculture education program in the department of education. (SD1)

