
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 also performs a public service by perpetuating a rural lifestyle
6 for Hawaii's residents and providing stewardship for Hawaii's
7 lands and water.

8 With the demise of the plantations that once controlled
9 vast acres of pineapple and sugar fields, 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 \$2,400,000,000 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 \$1,700,000,000
7 to \$4,400,000,000 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 efforts
3 to strengthen and improve the agricultural industry, revitalize
4 the 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, the
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 agricultural industry promises not only
4 to diversify Hawaii's economy but also to sustain and stabilize
5 Hawaii's food supply and protect the open space and lifestyle
6 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 \$ or so much
12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007, as a
13 grant pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for the
14 Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation to conduct agricultural research
15 and market development.

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

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

Report Title:

Agricultural Research and Market Development; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates \$ as a grant for the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation to conduct agricultural research and market development. (SD2)

