

JAN 25 2006

S.B. NO. 2478

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND MARKET DEVELOPMENT.

**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 \$2,400,000,000 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



1 in 2002. The prime agricultural lands released from sugar and  
2 pineapple production present a rare window of opportunity to  
3 further agricultural development. At present, about one  
4 hundred thousand acres of former sugar and pineapple land lie  
5 fallow, awaiting economically viable agribusinesses. Recent  
6 estimates suggest that if all this land could be put to  
7 productive use in successful agricultural ventures, an  
8 additional \$1,700,000,000 to \$4,400,000,000 could be added to  
9 the State's economy.

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

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

20 The legislature finds that the Hawaii Agriculture Research  
21 Center, the University of Hawaii-college of tropical agriculture  
22 and human resources, the department of agriculture, and the



1 United States Department of Agriculture Pacific Basin  
2 Agricultural Research Center should work collaboratively to  
3 expand their agricultural research efforts. These research  
4 organizations are an important resource in the State's effort to  
5 strengthen and improve the agricultural industry, revitalize the  
6 economy, and expand employment opportunities for residents.

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



1 legislature finds that the logical organization to oversee and  
2 expend the funding for agricultural research and market  
3 development is the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation.

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

10 The purpose of this Act is to provide funding for the  
11 Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation to conduct agricultural research  
12 and market development.

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

18 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
19 of agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

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

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S.B. NO. 2479

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**SB. NO. 2478**

**Report Title:**

Agricultural Research and Market Development; Appropriation

**Description:**

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

