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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the state has a  
2 responsibility to conserve and protect agricultural lands,  
3 promote diversified agriculture, increase agricultural self-  
4 sufficiency, and ensure the availability of agriculturally  
5 suitable lands that is mandated by article XI, section 3, of the  
6 state constitution.

7           The legislature passed Act 183, Session Laws of Hawaii  
8 2005, which provided a framework to designate important  
9 agricultural lands after appropriate incentives are established.  
10 This process may take several more years. Meanwhile, many  
11 agricultural lands that would be considered important  
12 agricultural lands are currently available for sale, including  
13 land in the Kunia area on Oahu.

14           Agricultural lands of Oahu, which has the highest  
15 population in the state, are under extreme development pressure.  
16 Thousands of agricultural acres in the Ewa plain are already  
17 converted or destined to be converted to urban needs. However,



1 residents of Ewa and central Oahu have indicated in their  
2 sustainable community plans their desire to maintain an  
3 agricultural area.

4       There is an area of approximately 8,000 contiguous acres of  
5 valuable Hawaii farmland in the Ewa, central Oahu area being  
6 purchased by companies which will provide for a diverse mix of  
7 farming operations accommodating large and small operations.  
8 Most importantly, the land owner has indicated a willingness to  
9 contribute to the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center  
10 approximately 119 acres of land and improvements, including  
11 agricultural worker housing and existing facilities for  
12 agricultural offices and agribusinesses.

13       The Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, Hawaii Agriculture  
14 Research Center, the Agricultural Leadership Foundation of  
15 Hawaii and the Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii are  
16 interested in co-locating their operations at this site to share  
17 business-related resource needs. The University of Hawaii  
18 college of tropical agriculture and human resources is also  
19 interested in using this site for its agricultural business  
20 incubator, its Poamoho field station, and some of its extension  
21 service office needs.



1 Various agribusinesses have also expressed an interest in  
2 having long term leases and locating and expanding their  
3 businesses at this location.

4 There is presently a rare opportunity to develop an  
5 agricultural business complex where existing agriculturally-  
6 based businesses can develop further, while new agricultural  
7 businesses can be incubated and provided the support to develop.

8 Entrepreneurs would be encouraged to build agricultural  
9 businesses if an agribusiness incubator is located near their  
10 property to provide needed assistance and to identify, test, and  
11 develop new agribusiness products.

12 The development of new agricultural businesses, supporting  
13 infrastructure, and resulting agricultural products would  
14 increase agricultural employment to support the existing  
15 agricultural rental housing already located within this area.

16 The legislature finds that the synergies provided by the  
17 abovementioned programs of the University of Hawaii college of  
18 tropical agriculture and human resources co-locating at the  
19 Kunia site will further the State's goals of promoting  
20 diversified agriculture and increased agricultural self-  
21 sufficiency.



1 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
3 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 to  
4 cover expenses incurred by the University of Hawaii college of  
5 tropical agriculture and human resources to move the  
6 agribusiness incubator and Poamoho station projects and  
7 personnel to the Kunia site.

8 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of  
9 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

10 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2008.



**Report Title:**

University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agricultural and Human Resources; Appropriation

**Description:**

Makes an appropriation to the college of tropical agriculture and human resources to move the agribusiness incubator and Poamoho station projects and personnel to a site in Kunia.  
(HB3309 HD1)

