
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 will
2 continue to play a vital role in Hawaii's efforts to become more
3 self-sustainable. Agriculture not only contributes to the
4 state's economy by providing employment opportunities, products
5 for export, and a stage for tourism, but also performs a public
6 service by helping to perpetuate a rural lifestyle for Hawaii's
7 residents who, in turn, provide stewardship for Hawaii's lands
8 and water.

9 With the demise of the plantations that once controlled
10 vast acres of pineapple and sugarcane fields, there is a need to
11 promote the diversification of Hawaii's agriculture industry.
12 Hawaii must also diversify its economic base beyond a reliance
13 on tourism. A revived and revitalized agriculture industry
14 promises not only to achieve this objective but also to sustain
15 and stabilize Hawaii's food supply and protect the open space
16 and lifestyle that both residents and visitors value.

17 Currently, Hawaii's agriculture and value-added product
18 industry contributes \$2,400,000,000 to the state's economy and



1 employs more than 38,000 people. Over the past 20 years, the
2 value of diversified agriculture in Hawaii has more than
3 doubled, reaching a record \$370,900,000 in farm-level revenues
4 in 2002.

5 The agriculture industry should continue to explore new
6 opportunities as prime agricultural land becomes available. At
7 present, about 100,000 acres of former sugarcane and pineapple
8 land--prime agricultural land--lie fallow. Recent estimates
9 suggest that if all this land could be put to productive use
10 through successful agricultural ventures, an additional
11 \$1,700,000,000 to \$4,400,000,000 could be infused into the
12 state's economy.

13 To take advantage of these opportunities and to provide the
14 necessary support for the overall transition of Hawaii's
15 agriculture industry from plantation agriculture to diversified
16 agriculture, more resources must be directed toward agricultural
17 research and development. Agricultural research is key to
18 maintaining Hawaii's competitiveness in an agricultural market
19 that is becoming increasingly global.

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 critical to the state's efforts to strengthen
5 and improve the agriculture industry, expand employment
6 opportunities for residents, and revitalize the economy.

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 agriculture industry in Hawaii, and can
11 ensure that agricultural research and marketing meet the needs
12 of local farmers and ranchers. The Hawaii Farm Bureau
13 Federation has frequently partnered with institutions like the
14 Hawaii Agriculture Research Center, the University of Hawaii
15 college of tropical agriculture and human resources, and the
16 department of agriculture on many research and market
17 development projects. The Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation has
18 also worked with many other kinds of commodity organizations,
19 including sugar, pineapple, papaya, macadamia, coffee, flower,
20 fruit, vegetable, aquaculture, seed corn, forestry, and
21 livestock organizations to formulate research needs for the
22 entire agriculture industry. Therefore, the legislature finds



1 that the most logical organization for agricultural research and
2 market development in the state is the Hawaii Farm Bureau
3 Federation.

4 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for a grant
5 to the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation to conduct agricultural
6 research and development.

7 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
9 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 for a
10 grant, pursuant to the provisions of chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised
11 Statutes, for the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation to conduct
12 agricultural research and development.

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

15 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.



Report Title:

Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation; Grants

Description:

Appropriates funds for a grant to the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation. (HB3310 HD1)

HB3310 HD1 HMS 2008-2365

