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# 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 Hawaii must  
2 diversify its economic base beyond a reliance on tourism. A  
3 revived agricultural industry would not only contribute to  
4 economic diversity, but also improve the food security of our  
5 isolated islands and preserve the green space and lifestyle that  
6 Hawaii's citizens and visitors value.

7           Currently, Hawaii's agriculture and value-added product  
8 industry contributes \$2,400,000,000 to the state's economy and  
9 employs more than thirty-eight thousand people. During the past  
10 twenty years, the value of diversified agriculture in Hawaii has  
11 more than doubled.

12           The agriculture industry should continue to explore new  
13 opportunities as prime agricultural land becomes available. At  
14 present, about one hundred thousand acres of former sugar cane  
15 and pineapple land--prime agricultural land--lie fallow.

16           To take advantage of these opportunities, and to address  
17 the above-mentioned issues, more safe, high-quality, market-



1 driven food products should be developed. Potential food  
2 products can:

3 (1) Be produced by Hawaii's food and agricultural  
4 producers and processors to provide safe and  
5 nutritious foods through established good agricultural  
6 practices; and

7 (2) Provide entrepreneurs with desired value-added  
8 processed foods that use Hawaii-grown produce.

9 Hence, there is a need for a local facility that can  
10 provide assistance for sensory evaluations of foods as well as  
11 appropriate packaging and marketing advice.

12 The legislature finds that the University of Hawaii college  
13 of tropical agriculture and human resources is already engaged  
14 in several areas of research and outreach that have made  
15 significant contributions to the resurgence of agriculture in  
16 Hawaii. Among the college's contributions to the state's  
17 agricultural industry are:

18 (1) Identification and development of high-value food,  
19 plant, and fiber products to help Hawaii stay  
20 competitive in a global market; and

21 (2) An agribusiness incubator that helps jumpstart and  
22 expand agribusinesses.



1 Thus, the legislature believes it would be appropriate for the  
2 college, with its expertise, to develop a long-range plan for a  
3 food innovation and security center.

4 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for the  
5 development of a long-range plan for a food innovation and  
6 security center to aid the development and promotion of new,  
7 safe, high-quality, and high-value agricultural products.

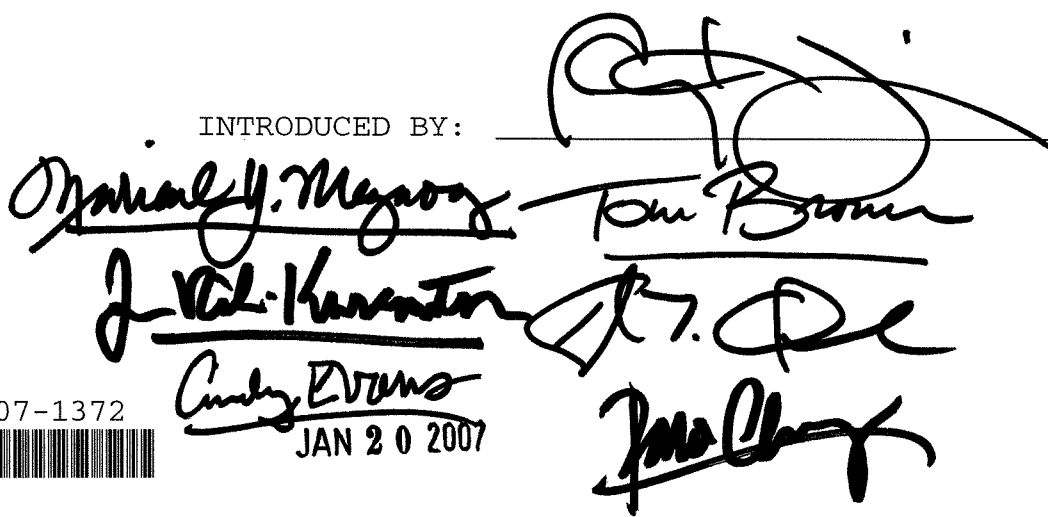
8 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$300,000 or so much  
10 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 for the  
11 University of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and human  
12 resources to develop a long-range plan for a food innovation and  
13 security center to aid the development and promotion of new,  
14 safe, high-quality, and high-value agricultural products.

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

17 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.

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INTRODUCED BY:





Cindy Evans  
JAN 20 2007

**Report Title:**

Food Innovation and Security Center; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to finance the development of a long-range plan for a food innovation and security center.

