
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

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

1 **PART I**

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

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

15 Agricultural lands of Oahu, which has the highest
16 population in the State, are under extreme development pressure.
17 Thousands of agricultural acres in the Ewa plain are already



1 converted or destined to be converted to urban needs. However,
2 residents of Ewa and central Oahu have indicated in their
3 sustainable community plans their desire to maintain an
4 agricultural area.

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

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

10 **PART II**

11 SECTION 3. The Komohana agricultural complex in Hilo is
12 currently under renovation. As a result of steep, unforeseen
13 escalations in the cost of labor and materials to bring older
14 buildings into compliance with current seismic codes, funds
15 budgeted are insufficient to fund the renovation of the
16 administrative building.

17 The purpose of this part is to enable the completion of
18 renovations at the complex by appropriating funds for:

- 19 (1) Remodeling antiquated offices, laboratories, and
20 conference rooms;
- 21 (2) Bringing the facility into compliance with the
22 requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act;



- 1 (3) Fixing or replacing a poorly designed and persistently
- 2 leaking roof;
- 3 (4) Replacing a failing air conditioning system that is
- 4 plagued by mold;
- 5 (5) Upgrading structural walls to meet current seismic
- 6 code requirements; and
- 7 (6) Updating obsolete fire alarm, telephone, and
- 8 electrical systems.

9 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
11 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 for
12 the completion of renovations of the Komohana agricultural
13 complex.

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

16 SECTION 5. 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; makes an appropriation for completion of the renovation of the Komohana agricultural complex in Hilo. (SD1)

