

JAN 23 2008

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



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

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

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

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

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

15

INTRODUCED BY:

Jill
Russell Kohl



Report Title:

Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation; Grants

Description:

Appropriates funds for a grant to the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation.

