

JAN 19 2007

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 reliance to tourism. A
3 revived state agriculture industry holds a promise of not only
4 diversifying Hawaii's economy, but also improving the food
5 security of our isolated islands and preserving the green space
6 and lifestyle that Hawaii's citizens and visitors value.

7 Hawaii's agriculture and value-added products contribute
8 \$2,400,000,000 to the State's economy and employs more than
9 thirty-eight thousand people. During the past twenty years,
10 diversified agriculture in Hawaii has more than doubled. The
11 prime agricultural lands released from sugar and pineapple
12 production present a rare window of opportunity to further
13 agricultural development and address the food security needs of
14 the State.

15 The legislature further finds that in order for Hawaii's
16 agriculture to take advantage of this opportunity, it must
17 produce safe, high-quality, and market-driven products that



1 offset Hawaii's high costs of land, labor, water, and
2 transportation. Hawaii's food and agricultural producers and
3 processors must produce foods that are safe and nutritious by
4 following established Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and
5 being GAP certified. There is also a need for assistance in
6 developing value-added processed foods that would assist
7 entrepreneurs to develop new products that use Hawaii grown
8 produce. There is a need for a local facility to provide
9 assistance for sensory evaluations of foods as well as
10 appropriate packaging and marketing advice. Thus, a food
11 innovation and security center is necessary to help address the
12 food safety and security needs of Hawaii.

13 The University of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture
14 and human resources is engaged in several areas of research and
15 outreach that have already contributed to the resurgence of
16 agriculture in Hawaii. The college's contributions to the
17 State's agricultural industry include:

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



1 (2) Creation of an agribusiness incubator that helps start
 2 agribusinesses and assists existing agribusinesses to
 3 expand.

4 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to the
 5 University of Hawaii to enable the college of tropical
 6 agriculture and human resources to develop a long range plan for
 7 a food innovation and security center for the development and
 8 promotion of new, safe, high-quality, high-value agricultural
 9 products.

10 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
 11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$300,000, or so much
 12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, and the
 13 same sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
 14 2008-2009, for the college of tropical agriculture and human
 15 resources to develop a long range plan for a food innovation and
 16 security center.

17 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the University
 18 of Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

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

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Jim

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Report Title:

Agriculture; Food Innovation and Security Center; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to the college of tropical agriculture and human resources to develop a long range plan for a food innovation and security center for the development and promotion of safe, high-quality, and high-value agricultural products.

