

JAN 19 2007

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

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

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



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

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

13 To take advantage of these opportunities, and to provide  
14 the 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 believes that the Hawaii Agriculture  
21 Research Center, the University of Hawaii college of tropical  
22 agriculture and human resources, the department of agriculture,



1 and the 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 to oversee and expend funding for agricultural  
2 research and market development in the State is the Hawaii Farm  
3 Bureau Federation.

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

7 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,000,000 or so much  
9 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 and the  
10 sum of \$1,000,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for  
11 fiscal year 2008-2009 for the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation to  
12 conduct agricultural research and development.

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

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

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**Report Title:**

Agricultural Research and Development; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriating funds for the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation to conduct agricultural research and development.

