

JAN 18 2007

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE AND LANDSCAPE EDUCATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that with the decline of
2 the sugar and pineapple industries in Hawaii, agricultural lands
3 are evolving into small diversified agricultural farms.
4 Further, with the demand for landscaping by many public and
5 private businesses, the landscaping industry is purportedly as
6 large as the diversified agriculture industry in Hawaii. The
7 legislature further finds that the need for agricultural and
8 landscaping workers runs the gamut in terms of skill-level.
9 Both industries have expressed a critical need for government
10 support to establish an educational infrastructure that may
11 prepare students for work in their industries. Appropriate
12 programs would assist in preparing and guiding students who are
13 otherwise unlikely to pursue higher education into jobs that are
14 in demand.

15 The purpose of this Act is to ensure the continued supply
16 of qualified individuals to support and maintain the agriculture
17 industry and the landscape industry by establishing a



1 comprehensive vocational agriculture and landscape education
2 program in the public schools.

3 SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
5 and to read as follows:

6 "§302A- Vocational agriculture and landscape education.

7 (a) The department shall establish and administer a vocational
8 agriculture and landscape education program. The program shall
9 include adequate staffing of individuals trained or experienced
10 in the fields of vocational agriculture and landscaping to
11 coordinate the program and to provide assistance to school
12 districts for the coordination of the activities of related
13 student organizations and associations.

14 (b) The vocational agriculture and landscape education
15 program shall be administered by a director who shall:

16 (1) Assess the agricultural and landscaping needs of the
17 State and devise methods for meeting those needs;

18 (2) Assist school districts in establishing a vocational
19 agriculture and landscaping program;

20 (3) Review school district applications for approval of a
21 vocational agriculture and landscaping program;

22 (4) Evaluate existing programs;



- 1 (5) Conduct research and studies for the improvement of
2 curriculum materials for specialty areas of vocational
3 agriculture and landscaping, including aquaculture and
4 incumbent worker training;
- 5 (6) Ensure that the standards and criteria developed under
6 this section satisfy the methods of federally-assisted
7 vocational education;
- 8 (7) Develop in-service programs for teachers and
9 administrators of vocational agriculture and
10 landscaping;
- 11 (8) Review applications for vocational agriculture and
12 landscaping teacher certification;
- 13 (9) Assist in teacher recruitment and placement in the
14 vocational agriculture and landscaping program;
- 15 (10) Serve as a liaison with the Future Farmers of America;
16 other organized youth agricultural entities;
17 representatives of related businesses, industries, and
18 appropriate public agencies; and institutions of
19 higher education to facilitate the dissemination of
20 information;
- 21 (11) Promote the improvement of vocational agriculture and
22 landscaping programs;



1 (12) Assist in the development of adult and continuing
2 education programs in vocational agriculture and
3 landscaping;

4 (13) Assist in the development of college-level education
5 programs in agriculture and landscaping; and

6 (14) Establish an advisory task force comprised of
7 agriculturists and experts in landscaping, who
8 represent the diverse areas of the agriculture
9 industry and the landscaping industry in the State,
10 which shall make annual recommendations on the
11 development of curriculum, staffing, and strategies to
12 establish a source of trained and qualified
13 individuals in agriculture and landscaping and
14 strategies for developing the state program in
15 vocational agriculture and landscaping education,
16 including youth leadership throughout the public
17 schools.

18 (c) The department may adopt rules in accordance with
19 chapter 91 necessary to implement this section."

20 SECTION 3. The department of education shall determine
21 whether the purposes of this Act will be better served by the



1 establishment of a single or two separate programs to support
2 the agriculture and landscape industries.

3 SECTION 4. The department of education shall consult with
4 the department of agriculture, and the University of Hawaii's
5 college of tropical agriculture and human resources and college
6 of education.

7 SECTION 5. The department of education shall submit a
8 report of its activities and any requests for funding to further
9 implement the purposes of this Act to the legislature and the
10 governor no later than twenty days before the convening of the
11 regular sessions of 2008 and 2009.

12 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000, or so much
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, and the
15 same sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
16 2008-2009, to establish the programs described in this Act.

17 SECTION 7. The sums appropriated shall be expended by the
18 department of education for the purposes of this Act.

19 SECTION 8. New statutory material is underscored.

20 SECTION 9. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;



S.B. NO. 90

1 provided that sections 6 and 7 shall take effect on July 1,
2 2007.
3

INTRODUCED BY:

Norman Saberno
JUM



Report Title:

Vocational Agriculture and Landscape Education Program

Description:

Establishes a Vocational Agriculture and Landscape Education Program to ensure the continued supply of qualified individuals to support and maintain the agriculture and landscape industries.

