

JAN 23 2009

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

16 Currently, Hawaii's agriculture and value-added
17 product industry contributes \$2,400,000,000 to the State's
18 economy and employs more than thirty-eight thousand people.



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

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

12 To take advantage of these opportunities, and to provide the
13 necessary support for the overall transition of Hawaii's
14 agriculture industry from plantation agriculture to diversified
15 agriculture, more resources must be directed towards expanding
16 the revenue base of farmers and ranchers to ensure their long
17 term viability.

18 The 2008 regular session of the legislature
19 recognized this need and requested a study entitled: "The
20 Feasibility of Constructing a Multipurpose, Multi-user Processing
21 Facility on the Land in the 'Ewa, Central O'ahu Area Being Offered
22 to the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center, for the Production of



1 Value-added Products that Make Use of Locally Grown Agricultural
2 Products."

3 The study identified the modifications needed on the former
4 Del Monte facility to serve farmers and ranchers to increase
5 value added production from locally grown agricultural products.
6 Additionally, the former culinary arts facility at the Maui
7 community college campus is available for similar use with
8 upgrades to its design. Other sites on Kauai and the island of
9 Hawaii are also being considered.

10 The legislature finds that there are culinary arts programs
11 at various community colleges across the State that can provide
12 expertise and collaborative opportunities to further the success
13 of facilities dedicated to value added agricultural products.

14 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for the
15 planning and modification of value added facilities contingent
16 upon a financial or in-kind match of funds.

17 SECTION 2. The director of finance is authorized to issue
18 general obligation bonds in the sum of \$ or so much
19 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2009-2010 and the
20 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
21 2010-2011 is appropriated for the planning, repair and
22 modification of the Del Monte and Maui community college



1 facilities to further the value added agricultural industry
2 pursuant to this Act; provided that no funds shall be made
3 available under this Act unless matched dollar-for-dollar in
4 cash or by in-kind donations by the private sector.

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

7 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2009.

8

INTRODUCED BY: _____

Byron Hill

by request



Report Title:

Agriculture; Value Added Products

Description:

Appropriates funds for the expansion of value-added agricultural operations at the Del Monte and Maui community college facilities.

