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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRIBUSINESS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the local farmers  
2 have difficulty distributing their products to large retail  
3 establishments. The University of Hawaii operates an  
4 agricultural extension service program that assists local  
5 farmers in the best farming practices.

6           The purpose of this Act is to require the University of  
7 Hawaii to convene a task force to conduct a study on whether an  
8 agribusiness cooperative program should be established.

9           SECTION 2. (a) The University of Hawaii shall conduct a  
10 study on whether an agribusiness cooperative program should be  
11 established to:

12           (1) Assist local farmers in increasing the distribution of  
13 products to large retail establishments; and

14           (2) Develop feed mills located in this State to lower farm  
15 expenses and minimize the carbon impact of  
16 transporting feed imports to local farmers.

17 The study shall include a proposal on the means by which the  
18 agribusiness cooperative program may be permanently funded



1 through private and public funds and a recommendation on the  
2 appropriate state agency or department under which the program  
3 should be established.

4 (b) To conduct the study, the University of Hawaii shall  
5 convene an agribusiness cooperative program task force composed  
6 of:

7 (1) The chairperson of the board of agriculture, or  
8 chairperson's designee;

9 (2) Three representatives of the Hawaii Farmers Union, as  
10 designated by the president of the Hawaii Farmers  
11 Union;

12 (3) A professor of agricultural economics at the  
13 University of Hawaii at Hilo, to be designated by the  
14 chancellor of the University of Hawaii at Hilo;

15 (4) A representative of the extension agent program of the  
16 University of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture  
17 and human resources, to be designated by the dean of  
18 the University of Hawaii college of tropical  
19 agriculture and human resources;

20 (5) The chief executive officer of the Hawaii Food  
21 Industry Association;



- 1           (6) The president of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, or
- 2           the president's designee;
- 3           (7) The president of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.,
- 4           or the president's designee; and
- 5           (8) A professor of animal livestock at the University of
- 6           Hawaii at Manoa, to be designated by the dean of the
- 7           University of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture
- 8           and human resources.
- 9           (c) As used in this section:

10           "Large retail establishment" means warehouse clubs and

11 stores, big box retail facilities, and other large supermarkets

12 that sell produce, poultry, or meats. In general, large retail

13 establishments range in size from twenty thousand square feet to

14 two hundred thousand square feet.

15           "Local farmer" means a farmer whose farm is located in

16 Hawaii.

17           SECTION 3. The University of Hawaii shall report findings

18 and recommendations to the legislature no later than twenty days

19 prior to the convening of the regular session of 2012.



1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: *Della A. Belatti*

JAN 26 2011



**Report Title:**

Agribusiness Cooperative Program; UH; Task Force

**Description:**

Requires the University of Hawaii to convene a task force to conduct a study whether an agribusiness cooperative program should be established in Hawaii.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

