

JAN 26 2011

---

---

# 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 is  
2 dangerously dependent on imported food. As the most  
3 geographically isolated state in the country, Hawaii imports  
4 approximately eighty-five per cent of its food. Currently,  
5 Hawaii has a fresh supply of produce for no more than ten days.  
6 Ninety per cent of the beef, sixty-seven per cent of fresh  
7 vegetables, sixty-five per cent of fresh fruits, and seventy per  
8 cent of all milk consumed in the State is imported. The  
9 legislature acknowledges that Hawaii's reliance on out-of-state  
10 sources of food places residents directly at risk of food  
11 shortages because of events outside of the State's control, such  
12 as natural disasters or worldwide economic events.

13           Each food product imported to Hawaii is a lost opportunity  
14 for local economic growth. Experts suggest that increasing the  
15 amount of locally grown food by as little as ten per cent could  
16 result in hundreds of millions of dollars kept circulating  
17 within Hawaii's economy and the creation of thousands of new



1 jobs. This economic diversification would make Hawaii more  
2 resilient to worldwide events and stimulate the local economy.

3 The legislature finds that increasing local food production  
4 would result in a decrease in the amount of transportation  
5 involved to feed each family and thus reduce Hawaii's carbon  
6 footprint. In addition, more local food ensures Hawaii would be  
7 more resilient to potential climate change impacts such as sea  
8 level changes, less rainfall, warmer temperatures, and severe  
9 storm events.

10 The legislature acknowledges that the increased  
11 availability of local food generally means fresher produce with  
12 greater vitamin content and higher nutritional value. In the  
13 long term, encouraging residents to eat locally produced food  
14 would result in a healthier lifestyle and better nutrition.

15 The legislature further finds that, despite the apparent  
16 benefits and need to diversify the economy and grow more local  
17 food, the State's prime agricultural lands are increasingly  
18 being consumed by development.

19 The legislature also finds it is in the best interest of  
20 Hawaii's residents to set a specific goal for food self-  
21 sufficiency by creating measurable standards over a long-term  
22 period of time. By establishing this standard, Hawaii can



1 ensure a long-term commitment of resources and investment into  
2 producing a significant portion of Hawaii's food.

3 SECTION 2. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by  
4 adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read  
5 as follows:

6 "CHAPTER

7 FOOD SUSTAINABILITY

8 § -1 Definitions. As used in this chapter, unless the  
9 context otherwise requires:

10 "Department" means the department of agriculture.

11 "Food sustainability standard" means the percentage of food  
12 sold in the State for local consumption, whether measured by  
13 weight or caloric value, that is also grown in the State.

14 § -2 Food sustainability standards. Of all of the food  
15 sold for consumption in the State, the following amounts shall  
16 be grown within the State:

17 (1) Twenty per cent of net food sales by December 31,  
18 2020;

19 (2) Thirty per cent of net food sales by December 31,  
20 2030; and

21 (3) Fifty per cent of net food sales by December 31, 2040.



1 ensure a long-term commitment of resources and investment into  
2 producing a significant portion of Hawaii's food.

3 SECTION 2. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by  
4 adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read  
5 as follows:

6 "CHAPTER

7 FOOD SUSTAINABILITY

8 § -1 Definitions. As used in this chapter, unless the  
9 context otherwise requires:

10 "Department" means the department of agriculture.

11 "Food sustainability standard" means the percentage of food  
12 sold in the State for local consumption, whether measured by  
13 weight or caloric value, that is also grown in the State.

14 § -2 Food sustainability standards. Of all of the food  
15 sold for consumption in the State, the following amounts shall  
16 be grown within the State:

17 (1) Twenty per cent of net food sales by December 31,  
18 2020;

19 (2) Thirty per cent of net food sales by December 31,  
20 2030; and

21 (3) Fifty per cent of net food sales by December 31, 2040.



1           §   -3   Department of agriculture responsibilities.   (a)

2   The department shall be responsible for measuring the amounts of  
3   food sold and grown in the State on an annual basis.  This  
4   information shall be made publicly available in accordance with  
5   the provisions of chapter 92F.

6           (b)   The department shall certify whether the food  
7   sustainability standards set forth in this chapter have been  
8   achieved.

9           (c)   The department shall be responsible for planning and  
10   adopting the necessary incentives to ensure that the food  
11   sustainability standards established under this chapter are met  
12   or exceeded.

13           (d)   The department shall submit to the legislature an  
14   annual report, no later than twenty days prior to the convening  
15   of each regular session, on the status of the department's  
16   efforts to effectuate this chapter and any recommended policy  
17   changes needed.

18           (e)   The department may adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91  
19   to effectuate this chapter.

20           §   -4   Penalties.  If the department determines at any  
21   time that the food sustainability standards established under  
22   this chapter have not been achieved, no state or county



1 discretionary approvals shall be granted for a proposed  
2 reclassification of more than fifteen acres of agricultural  
3 land."

4 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
6 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2011-2012 and  
7 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
8 year 2012-2013 for the establishment of food sustainability  
9 standards and the related oversight, planning, and monitoring  
10 responsibilities.

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

13 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2011.  
14

INTRODUCED BY:

*Milton Kahole*

*Clarence K. Nishikawa*

*[Signature]*

*[Signature]*  
*Joyanne Chun Cabland*

*[Signature]*  
*Neil N. DL*



**Report Title:**

Department of Agriculture; Food Sustainability Standards;  
Penalties; Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires the State to attain certain food sustainability standards by enumerated deadlines. Requires the department of agriculture to monitor the State's progress with respect to achieving the food sustainability standards. Authorizes the department of agriculture to impose penalties for the State's failure to reach the respective food sustainability standard deadlines. Requires the department of agriculture to report to the legislature annually. Makes an appropriation to the department of agriculture to effectuate the purpose of this Act.

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

