

JAN 26 2011

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE LONG-TERM AGRICULTURAL LEASE TASK FORCE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that small farmers and
2 locally-based agricultural enterprises are essential partners in
3 achieving the State's goal of increased food sustainability in
4 the State. Small farmers and agricultural enterprises face many
5 challenges, including limitations on lease terms that affect
6 their ability to pursue innovative solutions in the field of
7 diversified agriculture. The legislature finds that providing
8 support to the State's small farmers and agricultural
9 enterprises serves the interest of the State in achieving food
10 sustainability.

11 SECTION 2. (a) There shall be established within the
12 department of agriculture for administrative purposes a long-
13 term agricultural lease task force. The task force shall
14 develop a plan and make recommendations to expand the
15 availability of long-term leases favorable to small farms and
16 agricultural enterprises in order to improve community
17 investments in long-term food sustainability in the State.



1 (b) The long-term agricultural lease task force shall meet
2 at times and in locations determined by its members; provided
3 that the task force shall meet a minimum of five times between
4 July 1, 2011, and December 1, 2011. The task force may continue
5 to meet beyond December 1, 2011, if necessary. The task force
6 shall be dissolved on June 30, 2012.

7 (c) The department of agriculture shall provide
8 administrative support to the long-term agricultural lease task
9 force.

10 (d) The task force shall be composed of the following
11 members:

- 12 (1) The chairperson of the board of land and natural
13 resources, or the chairperson's designee;
- 14 (2) The chairperson of the board of agriculture or the
15 chairperson's designee;
- 16 (3) The president of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation;
- 17 (4) Two additional representatives from the Hawaii Farm
18 Bureau Federation;
- 19 (5) The president of the Hawai'i Farmers Union;
- 20 (6) Three additional representatives from the Hawai'i
21 Farmers Union;
- 22 (7) The president of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council; and



1 (8) One additional representative from the Hawaii
2 Cattlemen's Council.
3 Members of the task force shall serve without compensation
4 but shall be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in
5 traveling from one island to another in the performance of their
6 official duties.

7 (e) The task force shall select from among its members a
8 chairperson and any other officers it deems necessary.

9 (f) The task force shall submit a report to the
10 legislature documenting its progress, reporting its allowable
11 travel expenses, and making recommendations for legislation to
12 address the issue of food sustainability no later than twenty
13 days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2012.

14 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
16 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2011-2012 to
17 support the purpose and objectives of the long-term agricultural
18 lease task force including:

19 (1) Convening and operating the task force, including
20 travel expenses for members who travel from one island
21 to another to attend meetings; and

22 (2) Preparing the report submitted to the legislature.



1 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
2 agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

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

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Report Title:

Agricultural Leases; Task Force; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the long-term agricultural lease task force in the department of agriculture; makes appropriation.

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