

JAN 26 2011

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AGRIBUSINESS COOPERATIVE PROGRAM.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that local farmers have
2 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 that
11 includes the following functions should be established to
12 promote the distribution of local farm products to large
13 retailers:

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



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

4 The study shall include a proposal for the means by which the
5 agribusiness cooperative program may be permanently funded
6 through private and public funds and a recommendation for the
7 appropriate state agency or department under which the program
8 should be established.

9 (b) To conduct the study, the University of Hawaii shall
10 convene an agribusiness cooperative program task force composed
11 of:

12 (1) The chairperson of the board of agriculture, or
13 chairperson's designee;

14 (2) Two representatives of the Hawaii Farmers Union, as
15 designated by the president of the Hawaii Farmers
16 Union;

17 (3) A professor of agricultural economics at the
18 University of Hawaii at Hilo, to be designated by the
19 chancellor of the University of Hawaii at Hilo;

20 (4) A representative of the extension agent program of the
21 University of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture
22 and human resources, to be designated by the dean of



- 1 the University of Hawaii college of tropical
2 agriculture and human resources;
- 3 (5) The chief executive officer of the Hawaii Food
4 Industry Association;
- 5 (6) The president of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, or
6 the president's designee;
- 7 (7) The president of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.,
8 or the president's designee;
- 9 (8) The owner of Maile Noa Egg Farm; and
- 10 (9) A professor of animal livestock science at the
11 University of Hawaii at Manoa, to be designated by the
12 dean of the University of Hawaii college of tropical
13 agriculture and human resources.

14 (c) As used in this section:

15 "Large retail establishment" refers to warehouse clubs and
16 stores, big box retail facilities, and other large supermarkets
17 that sell produce, poultry, or meats. In general, large retail
18 establishments range in size from 20,000 square feet to 200,000
19 square feet.

20 "Local farmer" refers to a farmer whose farm is located in
21 Hawaii."



1 SECTION 3. The University of Hawaii shall report its
 2 findings and recommendations to the legislature no later than
 3 twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of
 4 2012.

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

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