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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HAWAII GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES.

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

1           SECTION 1. Hawaii's farms and farmers reflect the heritage  
2 and diversity of many cultures and people. They are the  
3 cornerstones of the State's goals for food security,  
4 sustainability, and self-sufficiency and are essential for  
5 producing local food for local consumption.

6           The number of small farms in Hawaii has grown substantially  
7 during the last ten years, reflecting a changing agricultural  
8 model from plantations to smaller farms with diverse cropping  
9 and marketing systems that create new local food sources and  
10 significantly increased employment. There is also a renewed  
11 interest in school gardens and in children being able to eat and  
12 enjoy the food they grow, contribute to their school cafeteria  
13 system, and learn economic, science, and cultural lessons  
14 through an agriculture-based curriculum.

15           These trends necessitate the development of Hawaii good  
16 agricultural practices that are science-based guidelines to  
17 reduce the potential for food product contamination on farms.  
18 The guidelines would provide support for farm practices



1 regarding field management, proper hygiene, water quality for  
2 irrigation and produce rinse, agricultural chemicals, and the  
3 use of animal manure.

4 At the national level, the Food Safety Modernization Act of  
5 2011 authorizes the Food and Drug Administration to develop  
6 science- and risk-based criteria for preventing food borne  
7 illnesses and encourages states to establish similar intra-state  
8 criteria for the safe production, distribution, and consumer  
9 handling of food.

10 The Hawaii Constitution mandates both the preservation and  
11 protection of agricultural resources. However, the department  
12 of agriculture's use of existing third party food safety  
13 certification audit systems is costly and impractical for many  
14 of Hawaii's farmers. The current food safety procedure has  
15 reduced farmers' access to local markets, thereby reducing local  
16 consumers' access to local produce, and possibly discouraging  
17 the development of farms that create food sustainability for the  
18 State. It also prevents children from having reasonable access  
19 to school gardens and undermines government programs that  
20 encourage food self sufficiency and economic development.



1           The purpose of this Act is to establish a Hawaii good  
2 agricultural practices program for farms growing local  
3 agricultural food products.

4           SECTION 2. Chapter 147, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
5 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
6 and to read as follows:

7           "§147-       Hawaii good agricultural practices program. (a)

8 There is established the Hawaii good agricultural practices  
9 program to be administered by the department of agriculture.

10 The purpose of the program is to develop and support good  
11 agricultural practices for Hawaii farms growing agricultural  
12 food products.

13           (b) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary,  
14 the Hawaii good agricultural practices program shall:

15           (1) Develop science- and risk-based good agricultural  
16 practices that reasonably reduce the potential for on-  
17 farm food borne illness and include specific  
18 considerations and methodologies for farm sizes,  
19 practices, techniques, materials, and crops;

20           (2) Develop and implement programs to educate and train  
21 Hawaii farmers to learn and implement good



1           agricultural practices in a cost-effective and  
2           efficient manner;

3           (3) Provide procedures for voluntary verification of on-  
4           farm implementation of good agricultural practices and  
5           subsequent issuing of state compliance certification;  
6           and

7           (4) Develop a consumer information program for publication  
8           and broadcast to teach home practices for the  
9           treatment and handling of fresh and processed  
10           agricultural food products.

11           (c) The department shall consult as necessary with the  
12           department of health, the University of Hawaii college of  
13           tropical agriculture and human resources, and other state and  
14           federal agencies to develop and implement the Hawaii good  
15           agricultural practices program.

16           (d) The department may adopt rules under chapter 91 to  
17           facilitate the implementation of this section."

18           SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$            or so much  
20 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 for the  
21 implementation of the Hawaii good agricultural practices  
22 program.



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

3           SECTION 4.   New statutory material is underscored.

4           SECTION 5.   This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2012.

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INTRODUCED BY: *[Handwritten Signature]* B/R

JAN 13 2012



# H.B. NO. 1786

**Report Title:**

DOA; Hawaii Good Agricultural Practices Program; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes the Hawaii good agricultural practices program.  
Makes an appropriation.

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