
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 it is an important
2 priority to encourage beekeeping operations of all sizes
3 throughout the State to ensure the continued viability of
4 honeybee stocks both in managed apiaries and in the wild. Honey
5 bees are a primary pollinator of food crops essential for many
6 agricultural and horticultural operations. However, honeybee
7 populations are declining at a rapid rate due to disease and
8 predators. Varroa mites, small hive beetles, and nosema have
9 decimated honeybee populations throughout Hawaii and the
10 mainland United States.

11 The legislature further finds that the best way to make
12 beekeeping an attractive proposition in Hawaii is to make it
13 easier and financially viable for beekeepers to legally extract,
14 bottle, and sell their honey by minimizing the administrative
15 and bureaucratic requirements in ways that will not affect
16 public safety. Honey is antiseptic, antibiotic, antifungal, and
17 antibacterial - it never spoils and does not host harmful
18 bacteria. There is a well-priced market for raw, local



1 artisanal honey in Hawaii, and beekeepers will overcome today's
2 difficult environmental obstacles to farming bees if they can
3 successfully sell their honey.

4 Most small beekeepers cannot successfully navigate the
5 current regulatory hurdles required to operate a certified food-
6 processing establishment on their own premises for the
7 extraction and bottling of honey. Currently, if located in
8 remote areas without chlorinated county water, beekeepers are
9 required to carry the frames of honey away from their farms in
10 bee boxes to an existing certified kitchen, a practice that can
11 endanger healthy bees. Many have given up beekeeping, and
12 others game the system by using paper commissary agreements to
13 fulfill the regulatory hurdle.

14 The purpose of this Act is to encourage beekeeping
15 operations in the State by exempting certain producers of
16 agricultural products from processing the product in a certified
17 honey house or food-processing establishment, or obtaining a
18 permit from the department of health.

19 SECTION 2. Chapter 321, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
20 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
21 and to read as follows:



1 "§321- Agricultural producers without access to
2 municipal water; exemption. (a) A producer of agricultural
3 products, including but not limited to raw unprocessed or
4 processed honey as defined in sections 147-21 and 147-51,
5 respectively, in areas without access to municipal water
6 supplies or infrastructure, shall not be required to process the
7 agricultural product in a certified food-processing
8 establishment or be required to obtain a permit from the
9 department of health, if the producer:

- 10 (1) Sells the agricultural product directly to consumers;
11 (2) Prepares the agricultural product adjacent to
12 permanent or temporary hand-washing facilities; and
13 (3) Uses water for washing that has been treated
14 equivalent to municipal potable water standards.

15 (b) The department may adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91
16 to effectuate this section no later than December 31, 2012."

17 SECTION 3. Section 328-79, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
18 amended to read as follows:

19 "~~§~~**§328-79**~~§~~ **Home-based agricultural producer of honey;**
20 **exemption.** A home-based agricultural producer of honey shall
21 not be required to process honey in a certified honey house or



1 food processing establishment, or be required to obtain a permit
2 from the department of health, if the producer:

3 (1) Sells less than [~~fifty~~] _____ gallons of honey a
4 year;

5 (2) Sells the honey directly to consumers[+] or directly
6 to a retail store on the same island that in turn
7 sells the honey directly to consumers; and

8 (3) Labels each container of honey sold with:

9 (A) The name and address of the producer;

10 (B) The net weight and volume of the honey, by
11 standard measure;

12 (C) The date the honey was produced; [~~and~~]

13 (D) The statement, "Honey should not be consumed by
14 infants under one year of age." in clear and
15 conspicuous print; and

16 [~~D~~] (E) The statement, "This product is home-
17 produced and processed." in clear and conspicuous
18 print."

19 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
20 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

21 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Agricultural Products; Honey; Exemption

Description:

Exempts producers of agricultural products in areas without access to municipal water supplies or infrastructure from processing the product in a certified food-processing establishment or obtaining a permit from the Department of Health. Sets the qualifying annual gallonage of honey for home-based honey production to an unspecified amount. Effective July 1, 2050. (HB1787 HD1)

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