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## 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 agriculture plays a  
2 vital role in Hawaii's efforts to become more self-sustainable.  
3 Agriculture not only contributes to the State's economy by  
4 providing employment opportunities, products for export, and a  
5 stage for tourism, but also performs a public service by helping  
6 to perpetuate a rural lifestyle for Hawaii's residents who, in  
7 turn, provide stewardship for Hawaii's lands and water.

8           With the demise of the majority of the plantations that  
9 once controlled vast acres of pineapple and sugar cane fields,  
10 there is a need to promote the diversification of Hawaii's  
11 agriculture industry. Hawaii must also diversify its economic  
12 base beyond tourism. A revived and revitalized agriculture  
13 industry promises not only to achieve this objective, but will  
14 also sustain and stabilize Hawaii's food supply and protect the  
15 open space and lifestyle that both residents and visitors value.

16           Currently, Hawaii's agriculture and value-added product  
17 industry contributes \$2,400,000,000 to the State's economy and  
18 employs more than thirty-eight thousand people. During the past



1 twenty years, the value of diversified agriculture in Hawaii has  
2 more than doubled, reaching a record \$370,900,000 in farm-level  
3 revenues in 2002.

4 The agriculture industry should continue to explore new  
5 opportunities as prime agricultural land becomes available. At  
6 present, about one hundred thousand acres of former sugar cane  
7 and pineapple land--prime agricultural land--lie fallow. Recent  
8 estimates suggest that if all this land was put to productive  
9 use through successful agricultural ventures, an additional  
10 \$1,700,000,000 to \$4,400,000,000 could be infused into the  
11 State's economy.

12 To take advantage of these opportunities, and to provide  
13 the necessary support for the overall transition of Hawaii's  
14 agriculture industry from plantation agriculture to diversified  
15 agriculture, more resources must be directed towards expanding  
16 the revenue base of farmers and ranchers to ensure their long  
17 term viability.

18 In the 2008 regular session, the legislature recognized  
19 this need and requested the University of Hawaii college of  
20 tropical agriculture and human resources to conduct a study of  
21 "The Feasibility of Constructing a Multipurpose, Multi-user  
22 Processing Facility on the Land in the Ewa, Central Oahu Area



1 Being Offered to the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center, for the  
2 Production of Value-added Products that Make Use of Locally  
3 Grown Agricultural Products."

4 The study identified the modifications needed on the former  
5 Del Monte facility to serve farmers and ranchers to increase  
6 value-added production from locally grown agricultural products.  
7 Additionally, the former culinary arts facility at the Maui  
8 community college campus is available for similar use with  
9 upgrades to its design. Other sites on Kauai and the island of  
10 Hawaii are also being considered.

11 The legislature finds that there are culinary arts programs  
12 at various community colleges across the State that can provide  
13 expertise and collaborative opportunities to further the success  
14 of facilities dedicated to value-added agricultural products.

15 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds, matched  
16 dollar-for-dollar by federal funds, in cash, or by in-kind  
17 donations by the private sector, for the planning, repair, and  
18 modification of agricultural facilities at the former Del Monte  
19 operation on Oahu and at Maui Community College.

20 SECTION 2. Section 147-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
21 amended by amending the definition of "agricultural commodity"  
22 to read as follows:



1            "\"Agricultural commodity\" means fresh fruits and fresh  
2 vegetables of every kind and character, whether or not frozen or  
3 packed in ice, whether produced in the State or imported, nuts,  
4 and coffee, whether cherry or parchment, or green beans, which  
5 have been produced in the State, [~~and~~] raw unprocessed honey,  
6 whether produced in the State or imported[-], and live animals  
7 of the bovine, equine, swine, sheep, or goat species, or the  
8 carcass or meat of those species, whether produced in the State  
9 or imported.\"

10           SECTION 3. The director of finance is authorized to issue  
11 general obligation bonds in the sum of \$                   , or so much  
12 thereof as may be necessary, and the same sum, or so much  
13 thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for fiscal years  
14 2011-2012 and 2012-1013, for the planning, repair, and  
15 modification of the Del Monte and Maui community college  
16 facilities to further the production of value-added products  
17 that make use of agricultural products grown in the State of  
18 Hawaii; provided that no funds shall be made available under  
19 this Act unless matched dollar-for-dollar in federal funds, in  
20 cash, or by in-kind donations by the private sector.

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

1 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

3 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2011.

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INTRODUCED BY:

  
JAN 20 2011



**Report Title:**

Agriculture; Value-Added Products

**Description:**

Appropriates funds, matched dollar-for-dollar by federal funds, in cash, or by in-kind donations by the private sector, for the planning, repair, and modification of agricultural facilities at the former Del Monte operation on Oahu and at Maui Community College. Effective 1/1/2011.

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