
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 cornerstone 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 where children learn economic,
12 scientific, and cultural lessons through an agriculture-based
13 curriculum.

14 At the national level, the Food Safety Modernization Act of
15 2011 authorizes the Food and Drug Administration to develop
16 science- and risk-based criteria for preventing food borne
17 illnesses and encourages states to establish similar intrastate



1 criteria for the safe production, distribution, and consumer
2 handling of food.

3 Good agricultural practices focus on science-based
4 guidelines to reduce the potential for food product
5 contamination on farms. These include guidance for farm
6 practices, such as field management, proper hygiene, water
7 quality for irrigation and produce rinse, agricultural
8 chemicals, and the use of animal manure.

9 The legislature finds that the use of existing third party
10 food safety certification audit systems is costly and
11 impractical for many of Hawaii's farmers. The current food
12 safety procedure:

- 13 (1) Has reduced farmers' access to local markets, thereby
14 reducing local consumers' access to local produce;
- 15 (2) Discourages the development of farms that create food
16 sustainability and self-sufficiency for the State; and
- 17 (3) Undermines government programs that encourage food
18 self sufficiency and economic development.

19 The purpose of this Act is to establish a Hawaii good
20 agricultural practices program for farms growing local
21 agricultural food products for local consumption.



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

4 "§147- Hawaii good agricultural practices program. (a)

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

7 The purpose of the program is to develop and support good
8 agricultural practices for Hawaii farms that grow agricultural
9 food products for consumption by the public.

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

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

17 (2) Develop and implement programs to educate and train
18 Hawaii farmers to use good agricultural practices in a
19 cost-effective and efficient manner;

20 (3) Provide procedures for voluntary verification of on-
21 farm implementation of good agricultural practices and



1 subsequent issuing of state compliance certification;

2 and

3 (4) Develop a consumer information program for publication

4 and broadcast to teach home practices for the

5 treatment and handling of fresh and processed

6 agricultural food products.

7 (c) The department shall consult as necessary with the

8 department of health, the University of Hawaii college of

9 tropical agriculture and human resources, other state and

10 federal agencies, and small farmer stakeholders to develop and

11 implement the Hawaii good agricultural practices program.

12 (d) The department may adopt rules under chapter 91 to

13 facilitate the implementation of this section."

14 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general

15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much

16 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 for the

17 implementation of the Hawaii good agricultural practices

18 program.

19 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of

20 agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

21 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.



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

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JAN 18 2012



H.B. NO. 2065

Report Title:

DOA; Hawaii Good Agricultural Practices Program; Appropriation

Description:

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

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