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## 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.

4           The purpose of this Act is to require the department of  
5 agriculture to convene a task force to conduct a study on  
6 whether an agribusiness cooperative program should be  
7 established.

8           SECTION 2. (a) The department of agriculture shall  
9 convene a task force to conduct a study on whether an  
10 agribusiness cooperative program that includes the following  
11 functions should be established to promote the distribution of  
12 local farm products to large retailers:

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

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



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

6 (b) To conduct the study, the agribusiness cooperative  
7 program task force shall be composed of:

8 (1) The chairperson of the board of agriculture, or  
9 chairperson's designee;

10 (2) Two representatives of the Hawaii Farmers Union, as  
11 designated by the president of the Hawaii Farmers  
12 Union;

13 (3) A professor of agricultural economics at the  
14 University of Hawaii at Hilo, to be designated by the  
15 chancellor of the University of Hawaii at Hilo;

16 (4) A representative of the extension agent program of the  
17 University of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture  
18 and human resources, to be designated by the dean of  
19 the University of Hawaii college of tropical  
20 agriculture and human resources;

21 (5) The chief executive officer of the Hawaii Food  
22 Industry Association;



1 (6) The president of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, or  
2 the president's designee;

3 (7) The president of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.,  
4 or the president's designee;

5 (8) The director of the Hawaii Pacific University-  
6 affiliated Oceanic Institute Aquatic Feeds and  
7 Nutrition Department; and

8 (9) A professor of animal sciences at the University of  
9 Hawaii at Manoa, to be designated by the dean of the  
10 University of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture  
11 and human resources.

12 (c) As used in this section:

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

18 "Local farmer" refers to a farmer whose farm is located in  
19 Hawaii.

20 SECTION 3. The task force shall report its findings and  
21 recommendations to the legislature no later than twenty days  
22 prior to the convening of the regular session of 2013.



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

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**Report Title:**

Agribusiness Cooperative Program; Task Force

**Description:**

Requires the convening of a task force to conduct a study as to whether an agribusiness cooperative program should be established in Hawaii.

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