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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL POLICY.

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

1           SECTION 1. The convenience of modern society has provided  
2 people with a variety of inexpensive food choices but has  
3 eliminated our connection and understanding of where food comes  
4 from, resulting in less healthful eating and a distancing from  
5 the natural environment that we depend on.

6           A report made to the twenty-sixth legislature in response  
7 to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 121, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, through  
8 the collaboration of private, public, and nonprofit entities,  
9 pointed to the problems of food insecurity and growing obesity  
10 rates that the State of Hawaii is facing. One in every three  
11 children born in the year 2000 is expected to develop diabetes  
12 and the 2003 food security task force report found that over  
13 nineteen percent of Hawaii residents live in food insecure  
14 households. Supporting local agriculture through initiatives  
15 like a farm-to-school program can serve to combat both of these  
16 problems.

17           Increasing the consumption of locally grown foods will  
18 ensure that fresh, high quality produce is available for healthy

1 meals in schools, hospitals, and correctional facilities  
2 throughout the State. The increased revenue for local farmers  
3 will reverse the trend of farmers struggling to break even, and  
4 will place agriculture at the forefront as a driving economic  
5 force providing job creation and food security for our State.  
6 Furthermore, the availability of local produce will ensure our  
7 children eat the highest quality food that will nourish their  
8 bodies, enhance their educational experience, and cultivate  
9 long-term healthy habits.

10 The purpose of this Act is to establish a policy to buy  
11 local produce and support local agriculture and codify that  
12 policy in chapter 226, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the Hawaii State  
13 Planning Act.

14 SECTION 2. Section 226-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
15 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

16 "(b) To achieve the agriculture objectives, it shall be  
17 the policy of this State to:

18 (1) Establish a clear direction for Hawaii's agriculture  
19 through stakeholder commitment and advocacy.

20 (2) Encourage agriculture by making best use of natural  
21 resources.

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- 1           (3) Provide the governor and the legislature with  
2           information and options needed for prudent decision  
3           making for the development of agriculture.
- 4           (4) Establish strong relationships between the  
5           agricultural and visitor industries for mutual  
6           marketing benefits.
- 7           (5) Foster increased public awareness and understanding of  
8           the contributions and benefits of agriculture as a  
9           major sector of Hawaii's economy.
- 10          (6) Seek the enactment and retention of federal and state  
11          legislation that benefits Hawaii's agricultural  
12          industries.
- 13          (7) Strengthen diversified agriculture by developing an  
14          effective promotion, marketing, and distribution  
15          system between Hawaii's producers and [~~consumer~~  
16          ~~markets locally, on the continental United States, and~~  
17          ~~internationally.] consumers in the State, nation, and  
18          world.~~
- 19          (8) Support research and development activities that  
20          strengthen economic productivity in agriculture,  
21          stimulate greater efficiency, and enhance the

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- 1           development of new products and agricultural by-
- 2           products.
- 3           (9) Enhance agricultural growth by providing public
- 4           incentives and encouraging private initiatives.
- 5           (10) Assure the availability of agriculturally suitable
- 6           lands with adequate water to accommodate present and
- 7           future needs.
- 8           (11) Increase the attractiveness and opportunities for an
- 9           agricultural education and livelihood.
- 10          (12) Expand Hawaii's agricultural base by promoting growth
- 11          and development of flowers, tropical fruits and
- 12          plants, livestock, feed grains, forestry, food crops,
- 13          aquaculture, and other potential enterprises.
- 14          (13) Promote economically competitive activities that
- 15          increase Hawaii's agricultural self-sufficiency[-]
- 16          including the increased purchase of Hawaii-grown foods
- 17          by residents and increased use by governmental bodies
- 18          as defined under section 103D-104.
- 19          (14) Promote and assist in the establishment of sound
- 20          financial programs for diversified agriculture.

1           (15) Institute and support programs and activities to  
2                   assist the entry of displaced agricultural workers  
3                   into alternative agricultural or other employment.

4           (16) Facilitate the transition of agricultural lands in  
5                   economically nonfeasible agricultural production to  
6                   economically viable agricultural uses."

7           SECTION 3. Section 226-103, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
8 amended by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

9           "(d) Priority guidelines to promote the growth and  
10 development of diversified agriculture and aquaculture:

11           (1) Identify, conserve, and protect agricultural and  
12                   aquacultural lands of importance and initiate  
13                   affirmative and comprehensive programs to promote  
14                   economically productive agricultural and aquacultural  
15                   uses of such lands.

16           (2) Assist in providing adequate, reasonably priced water  
17                   for agricultural activities.

18           (3) Encourage public and private investment to increase  
19                   water supply and to improve transmission, storage, and  
20                   irrigation facilities in support of diversified  
21                   agriculture and aquaculture.

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- 1           (4) Assist in the formation and operation of production  
2           and marketing associations and cooperatives to reduce  
3           production and marketing costs.
- 4           (5) Encourage and assist with the development of a  
5           waterborne and airborne freight and cargo system  
6           capable of meeting the needs of Hawaii's agricultural  
7           community.
- 8           (6) Seek favorable freight rates for Hawaii's agricultural  
9           products from interisland and overseas transportation  
10          operators.
- 11          (7) Encourage the development and expansion of  
12          agricultural and aquacultural activities which offer  
13          long-term economic growth potential and employment  
14          opportunities.
- 15          (8) Continue the development of agricultural parks and  
16          other programs to assist small independent farmers in  
17          securing agricultural lands and loans.
- 18          (9) Require agricultural uses in agricultural subdivisions  
19          and closely monitor the uses in these subdivisions.
- 20          (10) Support the continuation of land currently in use for  
21          diversified agriculture.



# H .B. NO. 2431

**Report Title:**

Policies for the Economy; Agriculture

**Description:**

Amends objectives and policies for the economy to support the purchase and consumption of locally grown products. Effective upon approval.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*



JUSTIFICATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Agriculture

TITLE: A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL POLICY.

PURPOSE: Codify the objective to purchase locally produced agricultural commodities in the Hawaii State Planning Act to show the intent of the State to move towards greater food security.

MEANS: Amend sections 226-7(b) and 226-103(d), Hawaii Revised Statutes.

JUSTIFICATION: The amendments to the Hawaii State Planning Act reflect the desire of the Department of Agriculture to emphasize the importance of supporting local agriculture in the movement towards greater food safety, food security, and self-sustainability. This amendment would serve as a guideline that can be used by the State and counties in the creation of long-term plans for the future of Hawaii and the increased role that local agriculture would play in those plans.

Impact on the public: Would provide a vision for an increase in locally produced agricultural commodities.

Impact on the department and other agencies: Would emphasize the consumption of locally produced agricultural commodities by governmental bodies.

GENERAL FUND: None.

OTHER FUNDS: None.

PPBS PROGRAM DESIGNATION: AGR 192.

OTHER AFFECTED

AGENCIES:

All government agencies.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

Upon approval.