
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 a variety of inexpensive food choices, but has eliminated our
3 connection with and understanding of where food comes from,
4 resulting in less healthful eating and a distancing from the
5 natural environment that we depend on.

6 A University of Hawaii report made to the legislature in
7 response to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 121, S.D. 1,
8 H.D. 1, Regular Session of 2009, through the collaboration of
9 private, public, and nonprofit entities, pointed to the problems
10 of food insecurity and growing obesity rates that the State of
11 Hawaii is facing. One in every three children born in the year
12 2000 is expected to develop diabetes. Furthermore, the 2003
13 food security task force report found that over nineteen per
14 cent of Hawaii residents live in food-insecure households.
15 Supporting local agriculture through initiatives like the farm-
16 to-school program can combat both of these 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 jobs and food security for our State. Further,
6 the availability of local produce will ensure that our children
7 eat the highest quality food that will nourish their bodies,
8 enhance their educational experience, and cultivate long-term
9 healthy habits.

10 The purpose of this Act is to establish and codify a policy
11 to buy local produce and support local agriculture.

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

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

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

18 (2) Encourage agriculture by making best use of natural
19 resources.

20 (3) Provide the governor and the legislature with
21 information and options needed for prudent decision
22 making for the development of agriculture.



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



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



1 (16) Facilitate the transition of agricultural lands in
2 economically nonfeasible agricultural production to
3 economically viable agricultural uses."

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

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

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

13 (2) Assist in providing adequate, reasonably priced water
14 for agricultural activities.

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

19 (4) Assist in the formation and operation of production
20 and marketing associations and cooperatives to reduce
21 production and marketing costs.



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



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, 2050.



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 July 1, 2050. (HB2431 HD1)

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

