
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY.

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

1 SECTION 1. In the wake of the global recession that saw
2 Hawaii's unemployment rate triple between 2007 and 2009, the
3 legislature finds that rebuilding and diversifying Hawaii's
4 economy to create new jobs, to put people back to work, and to
5 build a strong economic base that carries Hawaii into the
6 twenty-first century is a key priority.

7 The legislature also finds that Hawaii is dangerously
8 dependent on imported food. As the most geographically isolated
9 state in the country, Hawaii imports approximately ninety-two
10 per cent of its food, according to the United States Department
11 of Agriculture. Currently, Hawaii has a supply of fresh produce
12 for no more than ten days. Ninety per cent of the beef, sixty-
13 seven per cent of the fresh vegetables, sixty-five per cent of
14 the fresh fruits, and eighty per cent of all milk purchased in
15 the State are imported. The legislature further finds that
16 Hawaii's reliance on out-of-state sources of food places
17 residents directly at risk of food shortages in the event of



1 natural disasters, economic disruption, and other external
2 factors beyond the State's control.

3 The legislature further finds that each food product
4 imported to Hawaii is a lost opportunity for local economic
5 growth. The legislature notes that according to the University
6 of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and human resources,
7 an increase in the production and sale of Hawaii-grown
8 agricultural commodities would contribute to significant job
9 creation. The research shows that replacing ten per cent of
10 current food imports will create a total of two thousand three
11 hundred jobs.

12 The legislature thus finds that increasing the amount of
13 locally grown food by as little as ten per cent could keep
14 hundreds of millions of dollars circulating within Hawaii's
15 economy, stimulate growth, and create thousands of new jobs.
16 Such diversification would help make Hawaii's economy more
17 resilient to worldwide events.

18 The legislature further finds that increasing local
19 production will ensure that Hawaii's food sources will be more
20 resilient to global supply disruptions, better able to cope with
21 increasing global demand and shortages of commodities such as



1 oil, and better prepared to deal with potential global food
2 scarcities.

3 The legislature notes that the nutrients in fresh fruits
4 and vegetables degrade rapidly and recognizes that increased
5 availability of local food typically ensures access to fresher,
6 later-picked produce with greater vitamin content and higher
7 nutritional value. A more robust local agricultural sector will
8 lead to more consistency and a likely increase in nutritional
9 choices for local residents. The legislature believes
10 communities will thrive by having a steady, affordable stream of
11 local products that act as staple foods to residents and by
12 having their food dollars recycled and reinvested in the local
13 economy.

14 The legislature further finds that by establishing a food
15 sustainability standard, Hawaii will be able to ensure a long-
16 term commitment of resources and investment to producing a
17 significant portion of Hawaii's food for local consumption.
18 Such a standard will also create a framework for long term
19 planning, including land use planning, resource allocation, and
20 tax incentives and will otherwise direct Hawaii towards a more
21 robust and sustainable future.



1 as otherwise determined by the department, that are grown in the
2 State.

3 **§ -2 Department of agriculture responsibilities. (a)**

4 The department shall be responsible for measuring and analyzing
5 the amount of food livestock, dairy, and edible crop commodities
6 grown and sold in the State on an annual basis. This
7 information shall be made publicly available in accordance with
8 the provisions of chapter 92F.

9 (b) The department shall, on an annual basis and in
10 conjunction with the department of business, economic
11 development, and tourism, identify key food commodities to be
12 targeted for assistance in developing an increased local market
13 share.

14 (c) The department shall be responsible for planning and
15 adopting the necessary incentives to ensure that the food
16 sustainability standard established under this chapter is met or
17 exceeded.

18 (d) The department shall submit an annual report to the
19 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
20 each regular session on the status and progress of the
21 department's efforts to effectuate this chapter and any
22 recommended policy changes or necessary legislation.



1 (e) The department may adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91
2 to effectuate the purposes of this chapter.

3 § -3 Food sustainability standard. (a) A statewide
4 food sustainability standard to be achieved by the year 2020 is
5 hereby established that requires the State to increase the
6 amount of food grown in the State for local consumption by at
7 least double the amount grown in 2013; provided the department
8 shall measure this amount by the farm cash receipts for
9 livestock, dairy, and crops without regard to inflation
10 adjustments, or by a comparable measurement as determined by the
11 department.

12 (b) The department shall submit a report and
13 recommendations to the legislature no later than twenty days
14 prior to the convening of the 2020 regular session on how to
15 raise the food sustainability standard over the following
16 decade."

17 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2030.



Report Title:

Food Sustainability; Department of Agriculture

Description:

Creates a new chapter in the Hawaii Revised Statutes requiring the Department of Agriculture to develop a food sustainability standard to promote local food production to help diversify the local economy. Effective July 1, 2030. (HB2703 HD2)

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