
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that it is an important
2 priority to encourage beekeeping operations of all sizes
3 throughout the State to ensure the continued viability of
4 honeybee stocks both in managed apiaries and in the wild.
5 Honeybees are a primary pollinator of food crops essential for
6 many agricultural and horticultural operations. However,
7 honeybee populations are declining at a rapid rate due to
8 disease and predators. Varroa mites, small hive beetles, and
9 nosema have decimated honeybee populations throughout Hawaii and
10 the mainland United States.

11 The legislature further finds that the best way to make
12 beekeeping an attractive proposition in Hawaii is to make it
13 easier and financially viable for beekeepers to legally extract,
14 bottle, and sell honey by minimizing the administrative and
15 bureaucratic requirements in ways that will not affect public
16 safety. Honey is antiseptic, antibiotic, antifungal, and
17 antibacterial -- it never spoils and does not host harmful
18 bacteria. There is a well-priced market for raw, local



1 artisanal honey in Hawaii, and beekeepers will overcome today's
2 difficult environmental obstacles to farming bees if they can
3 successfully sell their honey.

4 Most small beekeepers cannot successfully navigate the
5 current regulatory hurdles required to operate a certified food-
6 processing establishment on their own premises for the
7 extraction and bottling of honey. Currently, if located in
8 remote areas without chlorinated county water, beekeepers are
9 required to carry the frames of honey away from their farms in
10 bee boxes to an existing certified kitchen, a practice that can
11 endanger healthy bees. Many have given up beekeeping, and
12 others game the system by utilizing paper commissary agreements
13 to fulfill the regulatory hurdle.

14 The purpose of this Act is to encourage beekeeping
15 operations in the State by exempting home-based agricultural
16 producers of honey from processing honey in a certified honey
17 house and obtaining a permit; provided that certain requirements
18 are met.

19 SECTION 2. Chapter 321, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
20 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
21 and to read as follows:



1 "§321- Agricultural producers of honey without access
2 to municipal water; exemption. (a) An agricultural producer of
3 honey, including raw unprocessed or processed honey as defined
4 in sections 147-21 and 147-51, respectively, in areas without
5 access to municipal water supplies or infrastructure, shall not
6 be required to process honey in a certified food-processing
7 establishment or be required to obtain a permit from the
8 department of health, if the agricultural producer of honey:

- 9 (1) Sells the honey directly to consumers;
10 (2) Prepares the honey adjacent to permanent or temporary
11 hand-washing facilities; and
12 (3) Uses water for washing that has been subjected to
13 treatment that is equivalent to municipal potable
14 water standards.

15 (b) The department may adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91
16 to effectuate this section no later than December 31, 2012."

17 SECTION 3. Section 328-79, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
18 amended to read as follows:

19 "~~§~~**§328-79**~~§~~ **Home-based agricultural producer of honey;**
20 **exemption.** A home-based agricultural producer of honey shall
21 not be required to process honey in a certified honey house or



1 food processing establishment, or be required to obtain a permit
2 from the department [~~of health~~], if the producer:

3 (1) Sells less than [~~fifty~~] five hundred gallons of honey
4 a year;

5 (2) Sells the honey directly to consumers [~~and~~] or
6 directly to a retail store that in turn sells the
7 honey directly to consumers; and

8 (3) Labels each container of honey sold with:

9 (A) The name and address of the producer;

10 (B) The net weight and volume of the honey, by
11 standard measure;

12 (C) The date the honey was produced; [~~and~~]

13 (D) The statement, "Honey should not be consumed by
14 infants under one year of age." in clear and
15 conspicuous print;

16 [~~D~~] (E) The statement, "This product is home-
17 produced and processed." in clear and conspicuous
18 print[-]; and

19 (F) The statement, "This product was not produced in
20 a department of health-inspected facility and may
21 place you at greater risk of contracting a food-



1 borne illness or being exposed to environmental
2 contaminants." in clear and conspicuous print."

3 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
4 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

5 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Agricultural Products; Honey

Description:

Exempts home-based agricultural producers of honey from the requirement that honey be processed in a certified honey house; provided that the producer meets certain labeling, among other requirements. Exempts qualifying agricultural producers, without access to municipal water supplies or infrastructure, from the requirements relating to certified food-processing establishments and Department of Health permits. Effective July 1, 2050. (SB2332 HD1)

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

