
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. Honey
5 bees are a primary pollinator of food crops essential for many
6 agricultural and horticultural operations. However, honeybee
7 populations are declining at a rapid rate due to disease and
8 predators. Varroa mites, small hive beetles, and nosema have
9 decimated honeybee populations throughout Hawaii and the
10 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 their honey by minimizing the administrative
15 and bureaucratic requirements in ways that will not affect
16 public 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 honey producers from
16 processing the product in a certified honey house or food-
17 processing establishment; provided that certain requirements are
18 met.

19 SECTION 2. Chapter 328, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
20 amended by adding a new section to part IVA to be appropriately
21 designated and to read as follows:



1 **"§328- Honey producers without access to municipal**
2 **water; exemption.** (a) A producer of raw unprocessed or
3 processed honey, as defined in sections 147-21 and 147-51,
4 respectively, who does not have access to municipal water
5 supplies or infrastructure, shall not be required to process
6 honey in a food-processing establishment certified by the
7 department of health if the honey producer:

- 8 (1) Uses water that has been treated to meet or exceed
9 state and federal drinking water standards;
- 10 (2) Prepares the honey adjacent to permanent or temporary
11 hand-washing facilities; and
- 12 (3) Complies with rules adopted by the department of
13 health to protect the health and safety of the public.

14 (b) The honey producer shall test the water used for
15 processing honey no less than once a month and shall maintain
16 water quality records for a period of no less than two years.
17 The honey producer shall make those records available to the
18 department upon request."

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

21 **"[+]§328-79[+] Home-based agricultural producer of honey;**
22 **exemption.** A home-based agricultural producer of honey shall



1 not be required to process honey in a certified honey house or
2 food processing establishment, or be required to obtain a permit
3 from the department [~~of health~~], if the producer:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 (F) The statement, "This honey was not produced or
21 packaged in a department inspected facility." in
22 clear and conspicuous print."



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 upon its approval.



Report Title:

Agricultural Products; Honey; Exemption

Description:

Exempts honey producers who do not have access to municipal water supplies or infrastructure from processing the honey in a food processing establishment certified by the department of health if certain requirements are met. Increases the threshold for honey production, for which certain producers of honey are exempt from the requirement that honey be processed in a certified honey house or food processing establishment; provided that the producer meets certain labeling requirements. (SD1)

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

