
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 further 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 pacific regional
11 integrated sciences and assessments program.

12 The legislature further finds that Hawaii's reliance on
13 out-of-state sources of food places residents directly at risk
14 of food shortages in the event of natural disasters, economic
15 disruption, and other external factors beyond the State's
16 control.

17 The legislature further finds that each food product
18 imported to Hawaii is a lost opportunity for local economic



1 growth. According to the University of Hawaii college of
2 tropical agriculture and human resources, an increase in the
3 production and sale of Hawaii-grown agricultural commodities
4 would create a significant number of jobs. Replacing ten per
5 cent of current food imports with locally grown food will create
6 approximately two thousand three hundred jobs. Increasing the
7 amount of locally-grown food by as little as ten per cent could
8 keep hundreds of millions of dollars circulating within Hawaii's
9 economy, stimulate growth, and create thousands of new jobs.
10 Such diversification would help make Hawaii's economy more
11 resilient to worldwide events such as global supply disruptions,
12 potential global food scarcities, and increasing global demand
13 for and shortages of commodities such as oil.

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 direct Hawaii towards a more robust and
21 sustainable future.



1 **§ -2 Department of agriculture; responsibilities.** (a)

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

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

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

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

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



1 **§ -3 Food sustainability standard.** (a) A statewide
2 food sustainability standard to be achieved by the year 2025 is
3 hereby established. The food sustainability standard requires
4 the State to increase the amount of food grown in the State for
5 local consumption by at least double the amount grown in 2015 as
6 measured by farm cash receipts without regard to inflation
7 adjustments or by a comparable measurement as determined by the
8 department.

9 (b) It shall be the priority of the State to achieve the
10 food sustainability standard in subsection (a) in order to
11 increase agricultural self-sufficiency. The State's compliance
12 or future compliance with the food sustainability standard in
13 subsection (a) shall be a standard or criteria in any decision
14 that may impact the State's capacity to achieve the food
15 sustainability standard.

16 (c) The department shall submit a report to the
17 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
18 the 2025 regular session with findings and recommendations on
19 ways to raise the food sustainability standard over the
20 following decade."

21 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
22 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000 or so much



1 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 and the
2 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
3 2014-2015 for carrying out the purposes of this Act, including
4 the hiring of necessary staff.

5 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
6 of agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

7 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2013.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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JAN 23 2013



H.B. NO. 1184

Report Title:

Food Sustainability; Department of Agriculture

Description:

Requires the Department of Agriculture to develop a food sustainability standard to promote local food production to help diversify the local economy. Appropriates funds. Effective July 1, 2013.

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

