
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 Hawaii's
2 agricultural community is essential to the sustainability of our
3 local economy. Our farmers provide locally produced foods and
4 products that reduce our dependence on imported goods, decrease
5 our vulnerability to food supply disruptions caused by natural
6 disasters or worldwide economic events, reduce our use of fossil
7 fuels, and keep money in our communities. Despite the merits of
8 local agriculture, the legislature further finds that many
9 Hawaii farmers are struggling financially, due in large part to
10 their inability to compete with outside products, which often
11 have lower production costs.

12 The purpose of this Act is to establish a task force that
13 shall develop strategies to empower Hawaii's agricultural
14 community to compete with imported products.

15 SECTION 2. (a) Beginning no later than January 1, 2014,
16 the department of agriculture shall convene a task force to
17 develop strategies that will enable Hawaii's agricultural
18 community to compete with imported products.



- 1 (b) The task force shall be comprised of:
- 2 (1) The chairperson of the board of agriculture or the
- 3 chairperson's designated representative;
- 4 (2) The executive director of the agribusiness development
- 5 corporation or the executive director's designated
- 6 representative;
- 7 (3) The dean of the University of Hawaii at Manoa, college
- 8 of tropical agriculture and human resources, or the
- 9 dean's designated representative;
- 10 (4) A representative of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation;
- 11 and
- 12 (5) Any other member that the department of agriculture
- 13 chooses to designate.
- 14 (c) The task force shall:
- 15 (1) Assess the State's agricultural industry and assess the
- 16 availability of financial capital to support Hawaii's
- 17 agricultural community competing in national and
- 18 international agricultural markets;
- 19 (2) Assess the ability of farmers and livestock producers
- 20 to form bargaining and marketing cooperatives in the
- 21 State;



- 1 (3) Examine the availability of accurate trade statistics,
2 including current market prices and trends, for various
3 agricultural products and commodities consumed in and
4 exported out of the State;
- 5 (4) Explore and propose strategies that will allow Hawaii's
6 agricultural community to compete with imported
7 products, that shall include but not be limited to:
- 8 (A) Giving qualifying farmers tax breaks on
9 agricultural equipment and supplies in order to
10 lower their production costs;
- 11 (B) Giving retailers financial and other incentives to
12 sell Hawaii-grown agricultural products at a
13 discount to consumers; and
- 14 (C) Exempting end-use consumers of Hawaii-grown
15 agricultural products from having to pay general
16 excise tax on such products; and
- 17 (5) Assess any other areas or matters that require
18 consideration by the task force that will allow the
19 local agricultural community to compete with imported
20 products.

21 SECTION 3. The task force shall report to the legislature
22 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the 2015



1 regular session on its findings and recommendations, including
 2 any recommendations for an implementation plan or proposed
 3 legislation.

4 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.
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H.B. NO. 1451

Report Title:

Agriculture; Task Force

Description:

Establishes a task force that shall develop strategies that will allow the local agricultural community to compete with imported products.

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