

JAN 24 2013

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO URBAN AGRICULTURE.

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

1 SECTION 1. In recent years, Hawaii has moved away from
2 producing its own food and has become more reliant on imported
3 agricultural commodities. By some estimates, over eighty-five
4 per cent of the food consumed in Hawaii is imported. This
5 places Hawaii in a precarious position when facing the dilemma
6 of food security, which is exacerbated by the increased costs of
7 transportation due to the rising price of petroleum. Hawaii
8 faces the further challenge of limited land and water resources,
9 two components that are critical to growing our own food.

10 However, the development of new technologies has begun to
11 shift the traditional notions of where farming can occur.
12 Advances in aquaponics, hydroponics, and soil-based aerated
13 container systems have made it possible to grow food in unique
14 places, including urban regions. These advances in agricultural
15 technologies have made it possible to create productive growing
16 areas on commercial and institutional rooftops. In Hawaii, a
17 successful example of this concept can be seen on the roof of
18 the Castle Medical Center, where a garden has been created to



1 supplement dietary needs of patients and staff with fresh
2 wholesome produce. This was accomplished utilizing proficient
3 engineering practices that did not compromise the structural
4 integrity of the medical center's roof or require extensive
5 drainage improvements.

6 In the governor's new day plan, two of the guiding
7 principles for agriculture production are food security and
8 innovative agricultural practices. Rooftop agricultural
9 production would perfectly abide by those principles. One of
10 the best venues to publicly showcase this concept is the fifth
11 floor of the Hawaii state capitol building. It has many of the
12 attributes that would allow for a successful rooftop garden and
13 would serve as an excellent example to be emulated throughout
14 Hawaii.

15 The purpose of this Act is to create rooftop gardens on the
16 fifth floor of the Hawaii state capitol building to promote
17 agricultural innovation and greater food security.

18 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$250,000, or so much
20 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 for the
21 development and implementation of a rooftop garden on the fifth
22 floor of the Hawaii state capitol building; provided that:



- 1 (1) The garden will not compromise the structural
2 integrity of the building in any way or require
3 additional, extensive drainage improvements;
- 4 (2) This appropriation shall not lapse at the end of the
5 fiscal year for which the appropriation is made; and
- 6 (3) Any balance of the appropriation that is not
7 encumbered as of December 31, 2015, shall lapse to the
8 credit of the general fund on that date.

9 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
10 agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

11 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2013.

12

INTRODUCED BY: Clarence K. Nishihara B/R



S.B. NO. 1326

Report Title:

Rooftop Agricultural Production

Description:

Creates a rooftop garden on the 5th floor of the State capitol.

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