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# 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 modern conveniences  
2 provide Hawaii residents with a variety of inexpensive food  
3 choices but diminish residents' appreciation for the natural  
4 environment responsible for Hawaii's food supply and contribute  
5 to residents' poor diets.

6           A report made to the twenty-sixth legislature in response  
7 to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 121, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, adopted  
8 during the regular session of 2009, by a collaboration of  
9 private, public, and nonprofit entities identified food  
10 insecurity and growing obesity as severe challenges facing  
11 Hawaii. One in every three children born in the year 2000 is  
12 expected to develop diabetes and the 2003 food security task  
13 force report found that over nineteen per cent of Hawaii  
14 residents live in food insecure households. Supporting local  
15 agriculture through initiatives like a farm-to-school program  
16 can serve to combat these problems.

17           Increasing the consumption of locally grown foods will  
18 ensure that fresh, high quality produce is available for healthy



1 meals in schools, hospitals, and correctional facilities  
2 throughout the State. The increased revenue for local farmers  
3 will assist struggling farmers and will ensure agriculture is a  
4 driving economic force in Hawaii providing job creation and food  
5 security for our State. Furthermore, the availability of local  
6 produce will ensure that Hawaii's children eat the highest  
7 quality food that will nourish their bodies, enhance their  
8 educational experience, and cultivate long-term healthy habits.

9 The purpose of this Act is to establish a policy to buy  
10 local produce and support local agriculture and codify that  
11 policy in chapter 226, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the Hawaii State  
12 Planning Act.

13 SECTION 2. Section 226-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
14 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

15 "(b) To achieve the agriculture objectives, it shall be  
16 the policy of this State to:

17 (1) Establish a clear direction for Hawaii's agriculture  
18 through stakeholder commitment and advocacy.

19 (2) Encourage agriculture by making best use of natural  
20 resources.



- 1 (3) Provide the governor and the legislature with  
2 information and options needed for prudent decision  
3 making for the development of agriculture.
- 4 (4) Establish strong relationships between the  
5 agricultural and visitor industries for mutual  
6 marketing benefits.
- 7 (5) Foster increased public awareness and understanding of  
8 the contributions and benefits of agriculture as a  
9 major sector of Hawaii's economy.
- 10 (6) Seek the enactment and retention of federal and state  
11 legislation that benefits Hawaii's agricultural  
12 industries.
- 13 (7) Strengthen diversified agriculture by developing an  
14 effective promotion, marketing, and distribution  
15 system between Hawaii's producers and ~~[consumer~~  
16 ~~markets locally, on the continental United States, and~~  
17 ~~internationally.] consumers in the State, nation, and~~  
18 world.
- 19 (8) Support research and development activities that  
20 strengthen economic productivity in agriculture,  
21 stimulate greater efficiency, and enhance the



- 1 development of new products and agricultural by-  
2 products.
- 3 (9) Enhance agricultural growth by providing public  
4 incentives and encouraging private initiatives.
- 5 (10) Assure the availability of agriculturally suitable  
6 lands with adequate water to accommodate present and  
7 future needs.
- 8 (11) Increase the attractiveness and opportunities for an  
9 agricultural education and livelihood.
- 10 (12) Expand Hawaii's agricultural base by promoting growth  
11 and development of flowers, tropical fruits and  
12 plants, livestock, feed grains, forestry, food crops,  
13 aquaculture, and other potential enterprises.
- 14 (13) Promote economically competitive activities that  
15 increase Hawaii's agricultural self-sufficiency[-],  
16 including the increased purchase and use of Hawaii-  
17 grown foods by residents, businesses, and governmental  
18 bodies as defined under section 103D-104.
- 19 (14) Promote and assist in the establishment of sound  
20 financial programs for diversified agriculture.



1 (15) Institute and support programs and activities to  
2 assist the entry of displaced agricultural workers  
3 into alternative agricultural or other employment.

4 (16) Facilitate the transition of agricultural lands in  
5 economically nonfeasible agricultural production to  
6 economically viable agricultural uses."

7 SECTION 3. Section 226-103, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
8 amended by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

9 "(d) Priority guidelines to promote the growth and  
10 development of diversified agriculture and aquaculture:

11 (1) Identify, conserve, and protect agricultural and  
12 aquacultural lands of importance and initiate  
13 affirmative and comprehensive programs to promote  
14 economically productive agricultural and aquacultural  
15 uses of such lands.

16 (2) Assist in providing adequate, reasonably priced water  
17 for agricultural activities.

18 (3) Encourage public and private investment to increase  
19 water supply and to improve transmission, storage, and  
20 irrigation facilities in support of diversified  
21 agriculture and aquaculture.



- 1           (4) Assist in the formation and operation of production  
2           and marketing associations and cooperatives to reduce  
3           production and marketing costs.
- 4           (5) Encourage and assist with the development of a  
5           waterborne and airborne freight and cargo system  
6           capable of meeting the needs of Hawaii's agricultural  
7           community.
- 8           (6) Seek favorable freight rates for Hawaii's agricultural  
9           products from interisland and overseas transportation  
10          operators.
- 11          (7) Encourage the development and expansion of  
12          agricultural and aquacultural activities which offer  
13          long-term economic growth potential and employment  
14          opportunities.
- 15          (8) Continue the development of agricultural parks and  
16          other programs to assist small independent farmers in  
17          securing agricultural lands and loans.
- 18          (9) Require agricultural uses in agricultural subdivisions  
19          and closely monitor the uses in these subdivisions.
- 20          (10) Support the continuation of land currently in use for  
21          diversified agriculture.



1        (11) Encourage residents and visitors to support Hawaii's  
2            farmers by purchasing locally grown products."

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 upon its approval.

6



**Report Title:**

Economic Policies; Agriculture; Hawaii State Plan

**Description:**

Amends the Hawaii State Planning Act objectives and policies for the economy to support the purchase and consumption of locally grown products. (SD1)

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

