
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HAWAII FOOD RESILIENCY.

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

1 PART I

2 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii is
3 dangerously dependent on imported food. As the most
4 geographically isolated state in the country, Hawaii imports
5 approximately ninety-two per cent of its food, according to the
6 Pacific Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments Program.
7 Currently, Hawaii has an inventory of fresh produce that would
8 supply consumers for no more than ten days. Ninety per cent of
9 the beef, sixty-seven per cent of the fresh vegetables, sixty-
10 five per cent of the fresh fruits, and eighty per cent of all
11 milk purchased in the State are imported. The legislature
12 further finds that Hawaii's reliance on out-of-state sources of
13 food places residents directly at risk of food shortages in the
14 event of natural disasters, economic disruption, and other
15 external factors beyond the State's control.

16 The legislature further finds that each food product
17 imported to Hawaii is a lost opportunity for local economic
18 growth. The legislature notes that according to the University



1 of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and human resources,
2 an increase in the production and sale of Hawaii-grown
3 agricultural commodities would contribute to significant job
4 creation. The research shows that replacing ten per cent of
5 current food imports with locally grown food will create a total
6 of two thousand three hundred jobs. The legislature thus finds
7 that increasing the amount of locally grown food by as little as
8 ten per cent could keep hundreds of millions of dollars
9 circulating within Hawaii's economy, stimulate growth, and
10 create thousands of new jobs. Such diversification would help
11 make Hawaii's economy more resilient to worldwide events.

12 The legislature further finds that increasing local
13 production will ensure that Hawaii has food sources that will be
14 more resilient to global supply disruptions, will be better able
15 to cope with increasing global demand and shortages of
16 commodities such as oil, and will be better prepared to deal
17 with potential global food scarcities.

18 The legislature notes that the nutrients in fresh fruits
19 and vegetables degrade rapidly and recognizes that increased
20 availability of local food typically ensures access to fresher,
21 later-picked produce with greater vitamin content and higher
22 nutritional value. A more robust local agricultural sector will



1 lead to more consistency and a likely increase in nutritional
2 choices for local residents. The legislature believes
3 communities will thrive by having a steady, affordable stream of
4 local products that act as staple foods to residents and by
5 having their food dollars recycled and reinvested in the local
6 economy.

7 In summary, the legislature finds that establishing an
8 increase in the production of local food as a key state priority
9 will lead to the diversification of Hawaii's economy, create new
10 jobs, advance Hawaii's long term economic stability, and boost
11 the food security of the people of Hawaii. This Act sets out a
12 specific roadmap to implement the recommendations made by the
13 Hawaii economic development task force created pursuant to Act
14 73, Session Laws of Hawaii 2010; the Hawaii clean energy
15 initiative; the office of planning strategy on increased food
16 security and food self sufficiency published in October of 2012;
17 and the Hawaii 2050 sustainability plan.

18 The purpose of this Act is to:

- 19 (1) Establish a formal statewide food resiliency
20 initiative that is recognized and supported by the
21 legislature and will achieve measurable goals of food
22 self-sufficiency in a reasonable timeframe;



- 1 (2) Establish a food resiliency branch in the department
- 2 of agriculture to coordinate, promote, and implement
- 3 the food resiliency initiative according to the
- 4 initiative's stated benchmarks and goals;
- 5 (3) Establish a task force to set forth the specific
- 6 benchmarks for the food resiliency initiative to
- 7 achieve and a timeline in which to achieve those
- 8 benchmarks; and
- 9 (4) Provide adequate resources to support the food
- 10 resiliency initiative.

11 PART II

12 SECTION 2. The purpose of this part is to create a food
13 resiliency initiative under the department of agriculture and a
14 new branch of the department of agriculture to coordinate,
15 develop, and implement the food resiliency initiative.

16 SECTION 3. Chapter 141, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
17 amended by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and
18 to read as follows:

19 **"PART . FOOD RESILIENCY**

20 **§141-A Definitions.** As used in this part:

21 "Department" means the department of agriculture.



1 "Food resiliency" refers to the concept of developing a
2 more sustainable and self-sufficient food supply system in
3 Hawaii. Food resiliency encourages production and consumption
4 of locally grown and bred food to decrease the reliance on
5 imported food, thereby improving the State's economy, health,
6 energy consumption, and general well-being.

7 **§141-B Hawaii food resiliency initiative.** (a) There is
8 established within the department a Hawaii food resiliency
9 initiative to increase the State's food security and food self-
10 sufficiency. The food resiliency initiative shall design,
11 implement, and administer activities to:

- 12 (1) Increase agriculture sustainability and improve the
13 economic viability of the State's agriculture
14 industry, including development of data to measure
15 progress;
- 16 (2) Develop and implement programs to assist farm,
17 nursery, and livestock production;
- 18 (3) Coordinate, fund, and establish agriculture industry
19 development programs;
- 20 (4) Develop a cross-agency electronic agricultural data
21 system with soil, water, climate, economic, and other
22 relevant data that can be used to make informed



- 1 agriculture-related decisions and is supported and
2 maintained with sustainable funds;
- 3 (5) Partner with the Hawaii clean energy initiative
4 program to further the goals of this part;
- 5 (6) Establish Hawaii as a global leader in agriculture and
6 agriculture technologies and a model of food self-
7 sufficiency;
- 8 (7) Develop and implement concepts and programs to expand
9 the market share of locally-grown agriculture;
- 10 (8) Market and promote buying locally grown foods and
11 other local agriculture products;
- 12 (9) Support and assist in developing a farm-to-school
13 program;
- 14 (10) Develop and implement research and technology transfer
15 programs for varieties, treatment, pest control,
16 diagnostics, and farm inputs;
- 17 (11) Support and coordinate with other appropriate programs
18 within the department such as infrastructure
19 development, biosecurity, and food safety;
- 20 (12) Ensure the product integrity of agricultural
21 commodities branded as "made in Hawaii" to protect
22 Hawaii's identity as a producer;



1 (13) Review, coordinate, update, oversee, and comment on
2 government policies that affect the State's
3 agriculture and food security;

4 (14) Develop a plan, to be implemented from 2013 to 2030,
5 to transition the State to a food resilient economy;
6 and

7 (15) Develop a plan, to be implemented from 2013 to 2030,
8 to assist each county in transitioning to a food
9 resilient economy.

10 (b) Prior to the initiation of any activities authorized
11 under subsection (a), the Hawaii food resiliency task force,
12 pursuant to part III of Act , Session Laws of Hawaii 2013,
13 shall develop a plan of action with the intent of promoting
14 effective prioritization and focusing of efforts consistent with
15 the State's food resiliency initiative.

16 (c) The department shall submit a 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 food
19 resiliency initiative that shall include progress toward the
20 initiative's benchmarks and goals. The report shall also
21 include:



- 1 (1) The spending plan of the Hawaii food resiliency
2 initiative;
- 3 (2) All expenditures of the agricultural development and
4 food security special fund moneys; and
- 5 (3) The targeted markets of the expenditures, including
6 reasons for selecting those markets, the persons to be
7 served, specific objectives of the program, and
8 program expenditures, including measurable outcomes.

9 **§141-C Food resiliency branch; establishment.** (a) There
10 is established a food resiliency branch within the department's
11 agricultural development division, which shall work to achieve
12 the food resiliency initiative's benchmarks and goals.

13 (b) Branch functions shall include:

- 14 (1) Oversight and disbursement of the agricultural
15 development and food security special fund;
- 16 (2) Food resiliency assessments, technical analyses, and
17 resource development functions, including design,
18 management, and completion of systematic analysis of
19 existing and proposed food resiliency programs;
- 20 (3) Evaluation of analyses conducted by government
21 agencies and other organizations regarding food
22 resiliency;



- 1 (4) Development and management of programs to encourage
2 public and private exploration, research, and
3 commercial development of food resiliency programs;
- 4 (5) Food resiliency partnership and outreach functions,
5 including participation in food resiliency evaluation
6 and demonstration projects, outreach, and other
7 activities to promote technically, economically, and
8 environmentally feasible technologies and projects;
- 9 (6) Food resiliency resource, technology, and project
10 viability consultant functions, including serving as a
11 consultant to the governor, public agencies, and
12 private industry on matters related to promoting
13 Hawaii's food resiliency initiative; and
- 14 (7) Oversight, administration, coordination, revenue
15 development, and funding to support food resiliency
16 initiative activities and programs.

17 (c) There is established within the department the
18 position of food resiliency administrator who shall be in charge
19 of implementing, coordinating, and supporting the food
20 resiliency initiative. The position shall be a full-time
21 position exempt from chapter 76. The administrator shall work
22 with and help coordinate efforts between all governmental and



1 non-governmental agencies and programs that may further the
2 objectives of the Hawaii food resiliency initiative so as not to
3 duplicate existing efforts and programs.

4 (d) There are established within the department seven
5 full-time temporary positions to support the planning,
6 coordinating, and implementing of the food resiliency
7 initiative. The positions shall be exempt from chapter 76."

8 PART III

9 HAWAII FOOD RESILIENCY TASK FORCE

10 SECTION 4. (a) There is established the Hawaii food
11 resiliency task force within the department of agriculture for
12 administrative purposes. The purpose of the Hawaii food
13 resiliency task force shall be to facilitate the accelerated
14 adoption and completion of measurable benchmarks and goals
15 regarding agricultural infrastructure, development, food
16 resiliency outreach and education, and other measures to meet
17 the purposes of this Act. The Hawaii resiliency task force
18 shall apply an interdisciplinary approach to ensure that the
19 Hawaii food resiliency initiative integrates and considers
20 already existing programs, research, and achievements in
21 ensuring a feasible, coordinated, and aggressive effort in
22 improving food resiliency. The task force should consider



1 economic, social, environmental, and cultural goals in
2 developing measurable benchmarks for the initiative.

3 (b) The Hawaii food resiliency task force shall consist of
4 the following members:

- 5 (1) The food resiliency administrator of the food
6 resiliency branch of the department of agriculture,
7 who shall chair the Hawaii food resiliency task force;
- 8 (2) The chairperson of the board of agriculture or the
9 chairperson's designee;
- 10 (3) The director of business, economic development, and
11 tourism or the director's designee;
- 12 (4) The director of the office of planning or the
13 director's designee;
- 14 (5) The chairperson of the board of land and natural
15 resources or the chairperson's designee;
- 16 (6) The dean of the University of Hawaii college of
17 tropical agriculture and human resources or the dean's
18 designee;
- 19 (7) Three members to be designated by the speaker of the
20 house of representatives;
- 21 (8) Three members to be designated by the president of the
22 senate; and



1 (9) A representative from each county's private economic
2 development board.

3 (c) The Hawaii food resiliency task force's members shall
4 serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for expenses,
5 including travel expenses, necessary for the performance of
6 their duties.

7 (d) In the performance of its duties, the Hawaii food
8 resiliency task force shall consult with appropriate private,
9 nonprofit, community, and government stakeholders.

10 (e) The department of agriculture may contract with the
11 University of Hawaii for any services to support the work of the
12 Hawaii food resiliency task force.

13 (f) The Hawaii food resiliency task force shall submit a
14 plan setting forth the specific, measurable benchmarks for the
15 food resiliency initiative to achieve, and a timeline in which
16 to achieve those benchmarks, to the legislature no later than
17 twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of
18 2014. The plan shall include a report of the methodology the
19 task force used to develop the specific benchmarks and goals
20 within the plan and recommendations on how to facilitate the
21 plan.



1 The task force shall also submit a follow-up report to the
2 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
3 the regular session of 2015.

4 (g) The Hawaii food resiliency task force shall cease to
5 exist on June 30, 2016.

6 PART IV

7 SECTION 5. The purpose of this part is to provide adequate
8 resources to support the food resiliency initiative, including
9 agricultural infrastructure and development to improve food
10 self-sufficiency in Hawaii.

11 SECTION 6. Section 141-10, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
12 amended by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

13 "(c) Subject to legislative appropriation, moneys in the
14 special fund may be expended for the following purposes:

15 (1) The awarding of grants to farmers for agricultural
16 production or processing activity;

17 (2) The acquisition of real property for agricultural
18 production or processing activity;

19 (3) The improvement of real property, dams, reservoirs,
20 irrigation systems, and transportation networks
21 necessary to promote agricultural production or
22 processing activity, including investigative studies



1 to identify and assess necessary improvements to dams,
2 reservoirs, irrigation systems, and transportation
3 networks;

4 (4) The purchase of equipment necessary for agricultural
5 production or processing activity;

6 (5) The conduct of research on and testing of agricultural
7 products and markets;

8 (6) The funding of agricultural inspector positions within
9 the department of agriculture;

10 (7) The promotion and marketing of agricultural products
11 grown or raised in the State;

12 (8) Water quality testing and improvement; [and]

13 (9) The funding of positions within the department of
14 agriculture to implement, coordinate, and support the
15 Hawaii food resiliency initiative established by
16 section 141-B; and

17 ~~(9)~~ (10) Any other activity intended to increase
18 agricultural production or processing that may lead to
19 reduced importation of food, fodder, or feed from
20 outside the State."

21 SECTION 7. Act 73, Session Laws of Hawaii 2010, is amended
22 by amending section 14 to read as follows:



1 "SECTION 14. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2010;
2 provided that sections 2, 3, and 4 [~~and~~ 7] of this Act shall be
3 repealed on June 30, 2015, and sections 128D-2, 201-12.8, and
4 243-3.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, shall be reenacted in the form
5 in which they read on June 30, 2010."

6 SECTION 8. There is appropriated out of the agricultural
7 development and food security special fund the sum of
8 \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
9 year 2014-2015 for one permanent, full-time equivalent (1.00
10 FTE) food resiliency administrator position established in
11 section 3 of this Act.

12 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
13 agriculture for the purposes of this part.

14 SECTION 9. There is appropriated out of the agricultural
15 development and food security special fund the sum of
16 \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
17 year 2014-2015 for seven permanent, full-time equivalent (7.00
18 FTE) food resiliency staff positions established in section 3 of
19 this Act.

20 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
21 of agriculture for the purposes of this section.

22 PART V

1 SECTION 10. In codifying the new sections added by section
2 3 of this Act, the revisor of statutes shall substitute
3 appropriate section numbers for the letters used in designating
4 the new sections in this Act.

5 SECTION 11. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
6 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

7 SECTION 12. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2013.

8



Report Title:

Food Resiliency Initiative Program; Appropriation

Description:

Develops a food resiliency initiative program, including a new branch in the department of agriculture, a task force, and appropriations. (SD1)

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

