
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HAWAII FOOD RESILIENCY.

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

PART I

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

The legislature further finds that each food product imported to Hawaii is a lost opportunity for local economic 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 task force to set forth the specific
2 benchmarks for the food resiliency initiative to
3 achieve and a timeline in which to achieve those
4 benchmarks; and

5 (3) Provide adequate resources to support the food
6 resiliency initiative.

7 PART II

8 SECTION 2. The purpose of this part is to create a food
9 resiliency initiative under the department of agriculture.

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

13 "PART . FOOD RESILIENCY

14 §141-A Definitions. As used in this part:

15 "Department" means the department of agriculture.

16 "Food resiliency" refers to the concept of developing a
17 more sustainable and self-sufficient food supply system in
18 Hawaii. Food resiliency encourages production and consumption
19 of locally grown and bred food to decrease the reliance on
20 imported food, thereby improving the State's economy, health,
21 energy consumption, and general well-being.



1 **§141-B Hawaii food resiliency initiative.** (a) There is
2 established within the department a Hawaii food resiliency
3 initiative to increase the State's food security and food self-
4 sufficiency. The food resiliency initiative shall design,
5 implement, and administer activities to:

- 6 (1) Increase agriculture sustainability and improve the
7 economic viability of the State's agriculture
8 industry, including development of data to measure
9 progress;
- 10 (2) Develop and implement programs to assist farm,
11 nursery, and livestock production;
- 12 (3) Coordinate, fund, and establish agriculture industry
13 development programs;
- 14 (4) Develop a cross-agency electronic agricultural data
15 system with soil, water, climate, economic, and other
16 relevant data that can be used to make informed
17 agriculture-related decisions and is supported and
18 maintained with sustainable funds;
- 19 (5) Establish Hawaii as a global leader in agriculture and
20 agriculture technologies and a model of food self-
21 sufficiency;



- 1 (6) Develop and implement concepts and programs to expand
2 the market share of local-grown agriculture;
- 3 (7) Market and promote buying locally grown foods and
4 other local agriculture products;
- 5 (8) Support and assist in increasing the procurement of
6 local commodities by government agencies;
- 7 (9) Develop and implement research and technology transfer
8 programs for varieties, treatment, pest control,
9 diagnostics, and farm inputs;
- 10 (10) Support and coordinate with other appropriate programs
11 within the department such as infrastructure
12 development, biosecurity, and food safety;
- 13 (11) Ensure the product integrity of agricultural
14 commodities branded as "made in Hawaii" to protect
15 Hawaii's identity as a producer;
- 16 (12) Review, coordinate, update, oversee, and comment on
17 government policies that affect the State's
18 agriculture and food security;
- 19 (13) Develop a plan, to be implemented from 2015 to 2030,
20 to transition the State to a food resilient economy;
21 and



1 (14) Develop a plan, to be implemented from 2015 to 2030,
2 to assist each county in transitioning to a food
3 resilient economy.

4 (b) Prior to the initiation of any activities authorized
5 under subsection (a), the Hawaii food resiliency task force,
6 pursuant to part III of Act , Session Laws of Hawaii 2013,
7 shall develop a plan of action with the intent of promoting
8 effective prioritization and focusing of efforts consistent with
9 the State's food resiliency initiative.

10 (c) The department may submit a report to the legislature
11 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular
12 session beginning with the regular session of 2016 on the status
13 and progress of the food resiliency initiative that shall
14 include progress toward the initiative's benchmarks and goals.
15 The report shall also include:

- 16 (1) The spending plan of the Hawaii food resiliency
17 initiative;
- 18 (2) All expenditures of the agricultural development and
19 food security special fund moneys; and
- 20 (3) The targeted markets of the expenditures, including
21 reasons for selecting those markets, the persons to be



1 served, specific objectives of the program, and
2 program expenditures, including measurable outcomes."

3 PART III

4 HAWAII FOOD RESILIENCY TASK FORCE

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

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



- 1 (1) The chairperson of the board of agriculture or the
- 2 chairperson's designee, who shall chair the Hawaii
- 3 food resiliency task force;
- 4 (2) The director of the office of planning or the
- 5 director's designee;
- 6 (3) The chairperson of the board of land and natural
- 7 resources or the chairperson's designee;
- 8 (4) The dean of the University of Hawaii college of
- 9 tropical agriculture and human resources or the dean's
- 10 designee;
- 11 (5) A member to be designated by the speaker of the house
- 12 of representatives;
- 13 (6) A member to be designated by the president of the
- 14 senate; and
- 15 (7) A representative from each county's private economic
- 16 development board to be designated by the respective
- 17 county.
- 18 (c) The Hawaii food resiliency task force's members shall
- 19 serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for expenses,
- 20 including travel expenses, necessary for the performance of
- 21 their duties.



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

4 (e) The department of agriculture may contract for any
5 services to support the work of the Hawaii food resiliency task
6 force.

7 (f) The Hawaii food resiliency task force shall submit a
8 plan setting forth the specific, measurable benchmarks for the
9 food resiliency initiative to achieve, and a timeline in which
10 to achieve those benchmarks, to the legislature no later than
11 twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of
12 2015. The plan shall include a report of the methodology the
13 task force used to develop the specific benchmarks and goals
14 within the plan and recommendations on how to facilitate the
15 plan.

16 The task force shall also submit a follow-up report to the
17 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
18 the regular session of 2016.

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



1 PART IV

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

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

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

- 10 (1) The awarding of grants to farmers for agricultural
11 production or processing activity;
- 12 (2) The acquisition of real property for agricultural
13 production or processing activity;
- 14 (3) The improvement of real property, dams, reservoirs,
15 irrigation systems, and transportation networks
16 necessary to promote agricultural production or
17 processing activity, including investigative studies
18 to identify and assess necessary improvements to dams,
19 reservoirs, irrigation systems, and transportation
20 networks;
- 21 (4) The purchase of equipment necessary for agricultural
22 production or processing activity;



- 1 (5) The conduct of research on and testing of agricultural
- 2 products and markets;
- 3 (6) The funding of positions, including agricultural
- 4 inspector positions within the department of
- 5 agriculture;
- 6 (7) The promotion and marketing of agricultural products
- 7 grown or raised in the State;
- 8 (8) Water quality testing and improvement; and
- 9 (9) Any other activity intended to increase agricultural
- 10 production or processing that may lead to reduced
- 11 importation of food, fodder, or feed from outside the
- 12 State."

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

15 "SECTION 14. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2010;
 16 provided that sections 2, 3, and 4 [~~and 7~~] of this Act shall be
 17 repealed on June 30, 2015, and sections 128D-2, 201-12.8, and
 18 243-3.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, shall be reenacted in the form
 19 in which they read on June 30, 2010."

20 PART V

21 SECTION 8. In codifying the new sections added by section
 22 3 of this Act, the revisor of statutes shall substitute



1 appropriate section numbers for the letters used in designating
2 the new sections in this Act.

3 SECTION 9. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
4 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

5 SECTION 10. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Food Resiliency Initiative Program; Hawaii Food Resiliency Task Force

Description:

Develops a food resiliency initiative to be guided by the Hawaii food resiliency task force. Effective 07/01/2050. (SD2)

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

