
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY.

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

1 SECTION 1. In the wake of the global recession that saw
2 Hawaii's unemployment rate triple between 2007 and 2009, the
3 legislature finds that rebuilding and diversifying Hawaii's
4 economy to create new jobs, to put people back to work, and to
5 build a strong economic base that carries Hawaii into the
6 twenty-first century is a key priority.

7 The legislature further finds that Hawaii is dangerously
8 dependent on imported food. As the most geographically isolated
9 state in the country, Hawaii imports approximately ninety-two
10 per cent of its food, according to the pacific regional
11 integrated sciences and assessments program of the National
12 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

13 The legislature further finds that Hawaii's reliance on
14 out-of-state sources of food places residents directly at risk
15 of food shortages in the event of natural disasters, economic
16 disruption, and other external factors beyond the State's
17 control.



1 The legislature further finds that each food product
2 imported to Hawaii represents a lost opportunity for local
3 economic growth. According to the University of Hawaii college
4 of tropical agriculture and human resources, an increase in the
5 production and sale of Hawaii-grown agricultural commodities
6 would create a significant number of jobs. Replacing ten per
7 cent of current food imports with locally grown food will create
8 approximately two thousand three hundred jobs. Increasing the
9 amount of locally-grown food by as little as ten per cent could
10 keep hundreds of millions of dollars circulating within Hawaii's
11 economy, stimulate growth, and create thousands of new jobs.
12 Such diversification would help make Hawaii's economy more
13 resilient to worldwide events such as global supply disruptions,
14 potential global food scarcities, and increasing global demand
15 for and shortages of commodities such as oil.

16 The legislature further finds that by establishing a food
17 sustainability standard, Hawaii will be able to ensure a long-
18 term commitment of resources and investment to producing a
19 significant portion of Hawaii's food for local consumption. A
20 food sustainability standard will also create a framework for
21 long-term planning, including land use planning, resource



1 allocation, and tax incentives, and will direct Hawaii towards a
2 more robust and sustainable future.

3 The legislature finds that establishing an increase in the
4 production of local food as a key state priority will diversify
5 Hawaii's economy, create new jobs, advance Hawaii's long term
6 economic stability, and boost the food security of Hawaii's
7 people. Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish a
8 statewide food sustainability standard program.

9 SECTION 2. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by
10 adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read
11 as follows:

12 "CHAPTER

13 FOOD SUSTAINABILITY

14 § -1 Definitions. As used in this chapter, unless the
15 context otherwise requires:

16 "Department" means the department of agriculture.

17 "Farm cash receipts" means the gross revenue of farms
18 derived from the sale of Hawaii-grown products including
19 livestock, dairy, and edible crops, as determined by the
20 department on an annual basis.

21 "Food sustainability standard" means the volume of food
22 commodities sold in the State, measured by farm cash receipts or



1 as otherwise determined by the department, that are grown in the
2 State.

3 **§ -2 Department of agriculture; responsibilities. (a)**

4 The department shall be responsible for measuring and analyzing
5 the amount of food livestock, dairy, and edible crop commodities
6 grown and sold in the State on an annual basis. The department
7 shall make the information publicly available in accordance with
8 chapter 92F.

9 (b) The department shall, on an annual basis and in
10 conjunction with the department of business, economic
11 development, and tourism, identify key food commodities to be
12 targeted for assistance in developing an increased local market
13 share.

14 (c) The department shall be responsible for planning and
15 adopting the necessary incentives to ensure that the food
16 sustainability standard adopted under this chapter is met or
17 exceeded.

18 (d) The department shall submit an annual report to the
19 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
20 each regular session on the status and progress of the
21 department's efforts to effectuate this chapter and any
22 recommended policy changes or necessary legislation.



1 (e) The department may adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91
2 to effectuate the purposes of this chapter.

3 § -3 Food sustainability standard. (a) A statewide
4 food sustainability standard to be achieved by the year 2025 is
5 hereby established. The food sustainability standard requires
6 the State to increase the amount of food grown in the State for
7 local consumption by at least double the amount grown in 2015 as
8 measured by farm cash receipts without regard to inflation
9 adjustments or by a comparable measurement as determined by the
10 department.

11 (b) It shall be the priority of the State to achieve the
12 food sustainability standard in subsection (a) to increase
13 agricultural self-sufficiency. The State's compliance or future
14 compliance with the food sustainability standard in subsection
15 (a) shall be a standard or criteria in any decision that may
16 impact the State's capacity to achieve the food sustainability
17 standard.

18 (c) The department shall submit a report to the
19 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
20 the 2025 regular session with findings and recommendations on
21 ways to raise the food sustainability standard over the
22 following decade."



1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for
4 carrying out the purposes of this Act, including the hiring of
5 necessary staff.

6 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
7 of agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

8 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Food Sustainability; Department of Agriculture

Description:

Requires the Department of Agriculture to develop a food sustainability standard to promote local food production to help diversify the local economy. Appropriates funds. Effective July 1, 2050. (HB1184 HD2)

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