
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FOOD AND AGRICULTURE.

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

1 SECTION 1. Hawaii is located approximately two thousand
2 five hundred miles from the contiguous United States. About
3 eighty-five to ninety per cent of Hawaii's food is imported,
4 which makes the State especially vulnerable to natural disasters
5 and global events that could disrupt shipping and other modes of
6 transporting food.

7 The legislature finds that greater emphasis must be placed
8 on:

- 9 (1) Improving and strengthening food security; and
10 (2) Increasing and enhancing food safety,
11 in Hawaii.

12 Act 55, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, supported food
13 security in Hawaii by promoting the increased purchase and use
14 of locally grown food and food products by residents,
15 businesses, and governmental entities.

16 Act 106, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, established a good
17 agricultural practices task force to identify and develop good
18 agricultural practices and preventive-measure guidelines to



1 ensure food safety throughout the local farm-to-consumer food-
2 supply system.

3 In light of such important concerns, the focus of the
4 department of agriculture should be broadened to include food
5 security and safety, and the name of the department should be
6 changed to reflect its new scope.

7 The purpose of this Act is to rename the department of
8 agriculture to the department of food and agriculture.

9 SECTION 2. Section 26-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
10 amended to read as follows:

11 "§26-16 Department of food and agriculture. (a) The
12 department of food and agriculture shall be headed by an
13 executive board to be known as the board of food and
14 agriculture. The board shall consist of ten members:

- 15 (1) One who shall be a resident of the county of Hawaii;
- 16 (2) One who shall be a resident of the county of Maui;
- 17 (3) One who shall be a resident of the county of Kauai;
- 18 (4) Four at large; and
- 19 (5) The chairperson of the board of land and natural
20 resources; the director of business, economic
21 development, and tourism; and the dean of the
22 University of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture



1 and human resources, or their designated
2 representatives, who shall serve as ex officio voting
3 members.

4 The majority of the members of the board shall be from the
5 agricultural community or the agricultural support sector. The
6 appointment, tenure, and removal of the members and the filling
7 of vacancies on the board shall be as provided in section 26-34.
8 The governor shall appoint a chairperson of the board from the
9 members.

10 (b) The board may delegate to the chairperson such duties,
11 powers, and authority, or so much thereof, as may be lawful or
12 proper for the performance of the functions vested in the board.

13 The chairperson of the board shall serve in a full-time
14 capacity. The chairperson shall, in that capacity:

15 (1) Perform such duties and exercise such powers and
16 authority, or so much thereof, as may be delegated to
17 the chairperson by the board; and

18 (2) Identify problems related to food and agriculture and
19 the appropriate state agencies and departments needed
20 to solve the problem. With the approval of the
21 governor, the designated agencies shall provide any



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- 1 necessary assistance to the chairperson until the
2 problem is resolved.
- 3 (c) The department shall:
- 4 (1) Promote the conservation, development, and utilization
5 of agricultural resources in the State;
- 6 (2) Assist the farmers of the State and any others engaged
7 in agriculture by research projects, dissemination of
8 information, crop and livestock reporting service,
9 market news service, and any other means of improving
10 the well-being of those engaged in agriculture and
11 increasing the productivity of the lands;
- 12 (3) Administer the programs of the State relating to
13 animal husbandry, entomology, farm credit, development
14 and promotion of agricultural products and markets,
15 and the establishment and enforcement of the rules on
16 the grading and labeling of agricultural products;
17 ~~and~~
- 18 (4) Administer the aquaculture program under section 141-
19 2.5~~[-]~~; and
- 20 (5) Promote food safety and security.
- 21 (d) The functions and authority heretofore exercised by
22 the board of commissioners of agriculture and forestry (except



1 the management of state parks and the conservation, development,
2 and utilization of forest resources, including regulatory powers
3 over the forest reserve provided in Act 234, section 2, Session
4 Laws of Hawaii 1957, and of fish and game resources transferred
5 to the department of land and natural resources), by the farm
6 loan board as heretofore constituted, and by the University of
7 Hawaii with respect to the crop and livestock reporting service
8 and market news service, are transferred to the department of
9 food and agriculture established by this chapter."

10 SECTION 2. Upon enactment of this Act, the revisor of
11 statutes shall substitute the words "department of food and
12 agriculture" or "board of food and agriculture" wherever the
13 words "department of agriculture", "board of agriculture", or
14 like terms, appear, as the context requires, and every reference
15 to the department of agriculture or chairperson of the board of
16 agriculture therein shall be construed as a reference to the
17 department of food and agriculture and the chairperson of the
18 board of food and agriculture, as appropriate.

19 SECTION 3. All rules, policies, procedures, guidelines,
20 and other material adopted or developed by the department of
21 agriculture to implement provisions of the Hawaii Revised
22 Statutes that are made applicable to the department of food and



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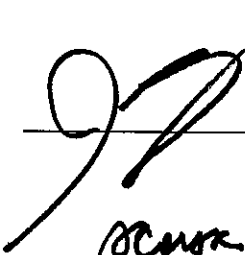
1 agriculture by this Act, shall remain in full force and effect
 2 until amended or repealed by the department of food and
 3 agriculture, pursuant to chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

4 In the interim, every reference to the department of
 5 agriculture, board of agriculture, or the chairperson of the
 6 board of agriculture in those rules, policies, procedures,
 7 guidelines, and other material is amended to refer to the
 8 department of food and agriculture, board of food and
 9 agriculture, or the chairperson of the board of food and
 10 agriculture, as appropriate.

11 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
 12 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

13 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.
 14

INTRODUCED BY:



Sen. Iwao
Nicole E. Linn
Tou Brown
Chris



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Report Title:

Department of Food and Agriculture

Description:

Renames the Department of Agriculture the Department of Food and Agriculture.

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HB HMS 2013-4373

