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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 Hawaii is located  
2 approximately 2,506 miles from the continental United States.  
3 About eighty-five to ninety per cent of Hawaii's food is  
4 imported, which makes Hawaii particularly vulnerable to natural  
5 disasters and global events that disrupt shipping and other  
6 modes of transporting food. Furthermore, the economic impact of  
7 food import replacement is significant. Food expenditures of  
8 local consumers from 2004 to 2005 amounted to \$3,700,000,000.  
9 Assuming that eighty-five per cent of the food consumed in the  
10 State is imported, this translates to \$3,145,000,000 of food  
11 expenditures leaving the State each year. Growing food within  
12 the State enables the expenditures on food to remain in the  
13 local economy.

14           The office of planning, in cooperation with the department  
15 of agriculture, issued a report in October 2012, titled  
16 *Increased Food Security and Food Self-Sufficiency Strategy: A*  
17 *State Strategic/Functional Plan Prepared in Accordance with HRS*  
18 *Chapter 226 Hawaii State Plan and the Hawaii Comprehensive*



1 *Economic Development Strategy*. The executive summary of the  
2 report states in pertinent part:

3 The purpose of the *Increased Food Security and Food*  
4 *Self-Sufficiency Strategy (Strategy)* is to increase  
5 the amount of locally grown food consumed by Hawaii  
6 residents. This will increase food self-sufficiency  
7 which is a component of food security. The *Strategy* is  
8 a living document intended as a first step toward  
9 continued dialog and implementation.

10 The three strategic objectives of the *Increased Food*  
11 *Security and Food Self-Sufficiency Strategy* are increasing  
12 demand for and access to locally grown foods, increasing  
13 production of locally grown foods, and providing policy and  
14 organizational support to meet food self-sufficiency needs.

15 The development of a whole system approach to agriculture  
16 in Hawaii that pays close attention to soil health, specifically  
17 increasing mineral availability and improving soil structure,  
18 water holding capacity, crop health, and food nutrition levels  
19 will lower water usage through deployment of green manure,  
20 compost, and cover crops; reduce crop loss from pest damage; and  
21 decrease weed pressure. This whole system approach to  
22 agriculture can improve food security and benefit the local



1 economy through reducing production cost by promoting locally  
2 sourced inputs and the manufacturing thereof. Teaching a new  
3 generation of farmers to use this whole system approach will  
4 create an alternative method of farming that appeals to many  
5 young farmers across the State. Currently, there is a shortage  
6 of qualified teachers for these farm methods. On-farm mentoring  
7 aims to fulfill this need by bringing the students to the farm  
8 and providing qualified farm mentors with funding.

9 The purpose of this Act is to improve food security and  
10 self-sufficiency in the State by:

- 11 (1) Establishing state planning and policy objectives for  
12 the economy of increased demand for and access to  
13 locally grown foods and increased production of  
14 locally grown foods;
- 15 (2) Encouraging the development and implementation of a  
16 whole system approach to agriculture in Hawaii; and
- 17 (3) Making various appropriations accordingly.

18 SECTION 2. Chapter 141, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
19 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
20 and to read as follows:

21 "§141- Agricultural development and food security  
22 program; establishment. There is established within the



1 department of agriculture an agricultural development and food  
2 security program that shall have the objectives described in  
3 section 226-6(a)."

4 SECTION 3. Section 226-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
5 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

6 "(a) Planning for the State's economy in general shall be  
7 directed toward achievement of the following objectives:

8 (1) Increased and diversified employment opportunities to  
9 achieve full employment, increased income and job  
10 choice, and improved living standards for Hawaii's  
11 people, while at the same time stimulating the  
12 development and expansion of economic activities  
13 capitalizing on defense, dual-use, and science and  
14 technology assets, particularly on the neighbor  
15 islands where employment opportunities may be limited.

16 (2) A steadily growing and diversified economic base that  
17 is not overly dependent on a few industries, and  
18 includes the development and expansion of industries,  
19 such as the soil amendments industry, on the neighbor  
20 islands.

21 (3) Increased demand for and access to locally grown foods  
22 by:



- 1           (A) Expanding local marketing campaigns to promote
- 2           the benefits of buying locally grown foods;
- 3           (B) Expanding and improving branding and labeling
- 4           programs and providing consumer education
- 5           programs to help consumers identify local
- 6           products at the time of purchase;
- 7           (C) Encouraging public institutions, including
- 8           schools, to purchase locally grown foods; and
- 9           (D) Addressing food safety issues by expanding the
- 10           farm food safety coaching program and number of
- 11           farm food safety certifiers.
- 12        (4) Increased production of locally grown foods, to
- 13        supplant mainland- or foreign-grown products by:
- 14           (A) Building the agricultural workforce, including
- 15           workforce development services for the
- 16           agricultural, energy, natural resources, and
- 17           related industries;
- 18           (B) Supporting the agricultural park program, which
- 19           provides public lands at reasonable cost and
- 20           long-term tenure to farmers and completing the
- 21           transfer of agricultural lands from the



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- 1           department of land and natural resources to the  
2           department of agriculture;
- 3           (C) Supporting capital improvement project funding to  
4           repair and maintain state irrigation systems that  
5           provide water at low cost to farmers;
- 6           (D) Encouraging a variety of distribution systems to  
7           move goods to the marketplace;
- 8           (E) Supporting multi-functional food hub facilities  
9           or food incubator facilities to handle  
10          aggregation, processing, value adding, treatment,  
11          and distribution; and
- 12          (F) Improving agricultural infrastructure, including  
13          agricultural parks, irrigation systems, and  
14          distribution systems and facilities."

15           SECTION 4. (a) There is established in the college of  
16 tropical agriculture and human resources at the University of  
17 Hawaii at Manoa an on-farm mentoring program that shall provide  
18 statewide and island-specific mentoring to teach farmers about  
19 methods to improve soil health by using whole system practices  
20 that recycle locally available organic, diverse plant and animal  
21 agricultural nutrients, enhanced by fermentation and other



1 ecological processes such as Korean natural farming as defined  
2 by the college of tropical agriculture and human resources.

3 (b) The dean of the college of tropical agriculture and  
4 human resources at the University of Hawaii at Manoa shall  
5 appoint an on-farm mentor for each island with a population  
6 greater than five thousand; provided that the dean of the  
7 college of tropical agriculture and human resources may appoint  
8 an on-farm mentor for an island with a population of five  
9 thousand or fewer upon request.

10 (c) The college of tropical agriculture and human  
11 resources shall establish curriculum for the on-farm mentoring  
12 program.

13 (1) The curriculum for the on-farm mentoring program shall  
14 include instruction on:

15 (A) Farming techniques that utilize locally sourced  
16 organic and other ecological and bio-diverse  
17 agricultural amendments and techniques relying on  
18 integrated farming practices using vegetative and  
19 animal waste products and diverse crops for soil  
20 amendments, seed, and other farm inputs;

21 (B) The culturing of indigenous microorganisms; and

22 (C) The recycling of nutrients back onto the farm.



- 1           (2) The curriculum for the on-farm mentoring program may  
2           include instruction on:
- 3           (A) Farm management, including whole system farming;
  - 4           (B) Animal husbandry, including animal and crop  
5           production;
  - 6           (C) Crop management with an emphasis on soil health;
  - 7           (D) Harvesting and storage for farmer cooperatives;
  - 8           (E) Farm marketing with an emphasis on food  
9           cooperatives;
  - 10          (F) Integrated pest management and multi-cropping;  
11          and
  - 12          (G) The breeding and release of beneficial insects.
- 13          (d) The college of tropical agriculture and human  
14 resources at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, as part of the  
15 on-farm mentoring program, shall provide competitive grants of  
16 up to \$50,000 each to individual farmers or farming  
17 organizations to develop on-farm mentoring or expand existing  
18 on-farm mentoring programs. In the grant application process,  
19 the college of tropical agriculture and human resources shall  
20 afford preference to existing farms that use a minimum of  
21 seventy five per cent of locally generated agricultural inputs  
22 or are certified to teach Korean natural farming techniques.





1 SECTION 5. 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 the  
4 department of agriculture to establish an agricultural  
5 development and food security program pursuant to this Act.

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

8 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general  
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
10 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the  
11 department of agriculture to produce locally grown agricultural  
12 product promotional materials along with other endeavors, such  
13 as in-store promotions.

14 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
15 agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

16 SECTION 7. There is appropriated out of the general  
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
18 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the  
19 department of agriculture to expand and improve branding and  
20 labeling programs for locally grown foods.

21 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
22 agriculture for the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 8. 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 fiscal year 2014-2015 for publicity  
4 to promote farmers' markets.

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

7 SECTION 9. There is appropriated out of the general  
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
9 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for a farm  
10 to school pilot program in charter schools of the State.

11 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
12 education for the purposes of this Act.

13 SECTION 10. There is appropriated out of the general  
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
15 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 to develop  
16 good agricultural practices for school gardens.

17 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
18 agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

19 SECTION 11. There is appropriated out of the general  
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
21 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the  
22 establishment of specialists to certify farm food safety.



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1           The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
2 agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

3           SECTION 12. There is appropriated out of the general  
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$           or so much  
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 to develop  
6 regional agriculture infrastructure master plans.

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

9           SECTION 13. There is appropriated out of the general  
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$           or so much  
11 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 to restore  
12 positions in food inspection, pest control, and biosecurity.

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

15           SECTION 14. There is appropriated out of the general  
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$           or so much  
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 to restore  
18 positions in market research and agricultural statistics.

19           The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
20 agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

21           SECTION 15. There is appropriated out of the general  
22 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$           or so much



1 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 to provide  
2 funding for research, training, and education on agricultural  
3 food development and food security.

4 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of  
5 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

6 SECTION 16. There is appropriated out of the general  
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
8 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 to provide  
9 funding for grants awarded under the on-farm mentoring program.

10 The sum appropriated shall be expended by college of  
11 tropical agriculture and human resources at the University of  
12 Hawaii at Manoa for the purposes of this Act.

13 SECTION 17. New statutory material is underscored.

14 SECTION 18. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.

15

INTRODUCED BY:

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[Signature]  
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JAN - 8 2014



# H.B. NO. 1536

**Report Title:**

Agriculture; Food Security; Soil Fertility; Appropriations

**Description:**

Establishes an agricultural development and food security program. Establishes state planning objectives to increase demand and access to locally grown foods. Establishes on-farm mentoring program. Makes appropriations. Effective July 1, 2014.

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

