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

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

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

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

- 5 (1) Establishing state planning and policy objectives for  
6 the economy of increased demand for and access to  
7 locally grown foods and increased production of  
8 locally grown foods;
- 9 (2) Encouraging the development and implementation of a  
10 whole system approach to agriculture in Hawaii; and
- 11 (3) Making various appropriations accordingly.

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

15 "§141- Agricultural development and food security  
16 program; establishment. There is established within the  
17 department of agriculture an agricultural development and food  
18 security program that shall have the objectives described in  
19 section 226-6(a)."

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



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

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

11          (2) A steadily growing and diversified economic base that  
12 is not overly dependent on a few industries, and  
13 includes the development and expansion of industries,  
14 such as the soil amendments industry, on the neighbor  
15 islands.

16          (3) Increased demand for and access to locally grown foods  
17 by:

18           (A) Expanding local marketing campaigns to promote  
19 the benefits of buying locally grown foods;

20           (B) Expanding and improving branding and labeling  
21 programs and providing consumer education



- 1                   programs to help consumers identify local
- 2                   products at the time of purchase;
- 3           (C)   Encouraging public institutions, including
- 4                   schools, to purchase locally grown foods; and
- 5           (D)   Addressing food safety issues by expanding the
- 6                   farm food safety coaching program and number of
- 7                   farm food safety certifiers.
- 8    (4)   Increased production of locally grown foods, to
- 9                   supplant mainland- or foreign-grown products by:
- 10           (A)   Building the agricultural workforce, including
- 11                   workforce development services for the
- 12                   agricultural, energy, natural resources, and
- 13                   related industries;
- 14           (B)   Supporting the agricultural park program, which
- 15                   provides public lands at reasonable cost and
- 16                   long-term tenure to farmers and completing the
- 17                   transfer of agricultural lands from the
- 18                   department of land and natural resources to the
- 19                   department of agriculture;
- 20           (C)   Supporting capital improvement project funding to
- 21                   repair and maintain state irrigation systems that
- 22                   provide water at low cost to farmers;



- 1            (D) Encouraging a variety of distribution systems to
- 2            move goods to the marketplace;
- 3            (E) Supporting multi-functional food hub facilities
- 4            or food incubator facilities to handle
- 5            aggregation, processing, value adding, treatment,
- 6            and distribution; and
- 7            (F) Improving agricultural infrastructure, including
- 8            agricultural parks, irrigation systems, and
- 9            distribution systems and facilities."

10            SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$            or so much  
12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the  
13 department of agriculture to establish an agricultural  
14 development and food security program pursuant to this Act.

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

17            SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general  
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$            or so much  
19 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the  
20 department of agriculture to produce locally grown agricultural  
21 product promotional materials along with other endeavors, such  
22 as in-store promotions.



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

3           SECTION 6. 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 for the  
6 department of agriculture to expand and improve branding and  
7 labeling programs for locally grown foods.

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

10          SECTION 7. There is appropriated out of the general  
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$           or so much  
12 thereof as may be necessary fiscal year 2014-2015 for publicity  
13 to promote farmers' markets.

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

16          SECTION 8. 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 a  
19 farm-to-school pilot program in charter schools of the State.

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



1 SECTION 9. 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 to develop  
4 good agricultural practices for school gardens.

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

7 SECTION 10. 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 the  
10 establishment of specialists to certify farm food safety.

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

13 SECTION 11. 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 regional agriculture infrastructure master plans.

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

19 SECTION 12. 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 to restore  
22 positions in food inspection, pest control, and biosecurity.





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

3           SECTION 13. 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 restore  
6 positions in market research and agricultural statistics.

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

9           SECTION 14. New statutory material is underscored.

10          SECTION 15. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.



**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. Makes appropriations. Effective July 1, 2014. (HB1536 HD1)

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

