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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 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,



1 compost, and cover crops; reduce crop loss from pest damage; and  
2 decrease weed pressure. This whole system approach to  
3 agriculture can improve food security and benefit the local  
4 economy through reducing production cost by promoting locally  
5 sourced inputs and the manufacturing thereof. Teaching a new  
6 generation of farmers to use this whole system approach will  
7 create an alternative method of farming that appeals to many  
8 young farmers across the State. Currently, there is a shortage  
9 of qualified teachers for these farm methods. On-farm mentoring  
10 aims to fulfill this need by bringing the students to the farm  
11 and compensating qualified farm mentors.

12 The purpose of this Act is to improve food security and  
13 self-sufficiency in the State by requiring the college of  
14 tropical agriculture and human resources at the University of  
15 Hawaii at Manoa to develop and implement a pilot on-farm  
16 training program for mentors.

17 SECTION 2. (a) To strengthen the training activities of  
18 the extension faculty and cooperative extension service within  
19 the college of tropical agriculture and human resources at the  
20 University of Hawaii at Manoa, the college shall develop and  
21 implement a pilot on-farm training program for mentors that  
22 shall utilize skilled farmers in extension service training



1 activities. The pilot program shall provide statewide and site-  
2 specific information and training to these farmers to enhance  
3 their ability to provide on-farm mentoring to students about  
4 methods to improve soil health by using whole system practices  
5 that recycle locally available organic, diverse plant and animal  
6 agricultural nutrients enhanced by fermentation, and other  
7 ecological processes such as Korean natural farming as defined  
8 by the college of tropical agriculture and human resources.  
9 Skilled farmers who participate in the training activities as  
10 instructors or mentors shall receive appropriate compensation  
11 for services provided to the pilot program as determined by the  
12 college and as allowed by fiscal and personnel regulations and  
13 policies of the University of Hawaii.

14 (b) The college of tropical agriculture and human  
15 resources shall establish curriculum for the pilot on-farm  
16 training program for mentors that is appropriate for the  
17 training activities to be provided and shall include instruction  
18 on:

19 (1) Farming techniques that utilize locally sourced  
20 organic and other ecological and bio-diverse  
21 agricultural amendments and techniques relying on  
22 integrated farming practices, including the use of



1 vegetative and animal waste products and diverse crops  
2 for soil amendments, seed, and other farm inputs, in  
3 accord with good agricultural practices to assure food  
4 safety;

5 (2) Use of indigenous sources of farming inputs, including  
6 the indigenous microorganisms used in certain farming  
7 techniques; and

8 (3) The recycling of nutrients back onto the farm.

9 The curriculum for the pilot on-farm training program for  
10 mentors may include instruction on the following, as deemed  
11 appropriate for particular sites and islands within the State:

12 (1) Farm management, including whole system farming;

13 (2) Animal husbandry, including animal and crop  
14 production;

15 (3) Crop management with an emphasis on soil health;

16 (4) Harvesting and storage for farmer cooperatives;

17 (5) Farm marketing with an emphasis on food cooperatives;

18 (6) Integrated pest management and multi-cropping; and

19 (7) The breeding and release of beneficial insects.

20 (c) The college of tropical agriculture and human

21 resources at the University of Hawaii at Manoa shall prepare a  
22 report of its findings and recommendations on the pilot on-farm



1 training program for mentors, including the future and funding  
2 requirements of the program and any necessary legislation. The  
3 report shall be submitted to the legislature no later than  
4 twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of  
5 2015.

6 SECTION 3. 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 for the  
9 pilot on-farm training program for mentors at the college of  
10 tropical agriculture and human resources at the University of  
11 Hawaii at Manoa.

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

15 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.



**Report Title:**

Agriculture; Pilot On-farm Training Program for Mentors; College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

**Description:**

Requires the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources at the University of Hawaii at Manoa to develop and implement a pilot On-Farm Training Program for Mentors. Appropriation. Effective July 1, 2014. (HB1989 HD1)

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

