
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO COMMUNITY FOOD FORESTS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the number of food
2 stamp recipients in Hawaii has nearly doubled over the last six
3 years. The legislature also acknowledges that Hawaii residents
4 face among the highest costs in the nation, with the inflation
5 of cost-of-living often outpacing the growth of provisional
6 rates for state welfare.

7 The legislature further finds that due to the island
8 geography of Hawaii, the long-term sustainability of the State
9 depends upon improved uses of land that has already been
10 developed. The legislature also finds that food production in
11 populated areas may contribute significantly to community
12 sustainability by providing locally-produced healthy food to
13 those who can not otherwise afford it.

14 Community and urban gardens, concepts which have been
15 adopted statutorily in states like New York, California,
16 Massachusetts, Tennessee, and Maine, may provide a solution to
17 the problem of increasing food costs and the dwindling
18 availability of undeveloped land. By identifying and utilizing



1 public lands, particularly those near existing community
 2 gathering places such as parks and community centers, to create
 3 community food forests that adopt edible landscaping concepts,
 4 the State may be able to provide additional sources of low- or
 5 no-cost food to residents, while also utilizing developed land
 6 for community sustainability purposes.

7 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish a
 8 community food forest program and to make an appropriation for
 9 this program.

10 SECTION 2. Chapter 171, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
 11 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
 12 and to read as follows:

13 "§171- Community food forest program. (a) The
 14 department shall establish and maintain a community food forest
 15 program.

16 (b) The community food forest program shall develop a
 17 statewide network of locally-directed community food forests in
 18 viable locations around the State by working with the various
 19 county governments and community-based citizen organizations to:

20 (1) Identify potential locations such as parks, community
 21 centers, or other locations that may be suitable for
 22 community food forest use;



- 1 (2) Examine the fiscal impacts of implementing a community
2 food forest in identified areas, particularly in
3 regards to the provision of food assistance to
4 residents, and the impact on local farm revenues;
- 5 (3) Determine what types of edible plants may be
6 appropriate for growth in each planned community food
7 forest, including by assessing relevant community
8 culture, food and landscape preferences, and
9 environmental conditions;
- 10 (4) Take appropriate steps to implement community food
11 forests in identified locations, including by
12 developing land, planting plants, and maintaining
13 existing gardens;
- 14 (5) Provide guidance and technical assistance to
15 communities where community food forests are to be
16 placed to ensure continued food forest sustainability
17 through community participation;
- 18 (6) Develop guidelines for the harvesting of plants grown
19 in community food forests to discourage theft and the
20 harvesting of garden plants for sale;



1 (7) Develop policies and procedures to protect public
2 health and safety in the operation of community food
3 forests; and

4 (8) Lease to county agencies or community-based citizen
5 organizations, at nominal consideration, by direct
6 negotiation and without recourse to public auction,
7 for a period not to exceed fifteen years and on such
8 terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the board,
9 public land or improvements under the control of the
10 department for the purpose of managing or maintaining
11 a community food forest.

12 (c) The department shall adopt rules in accordance with
13 chapter 91 to carry out the purposes of this section.

14 (d) The community food forest program shall collaborate
15 with interested stakeholders, including the communities where
16 community food forests will be placed, the department of
17 agriculture, and other state and county government agencies and
18 private organizations concerned with the development of
19 community food forests.

20 (e) The community food forest program shall report to the
21 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
22 each regular session, beginning with the regular session of



1 2015, describing the progress made in implementing the program,
2 including a review of potential community food forest locations
3 and the amount of community involvement in each potential
4 community food forest location.

5 (f) For the purposes of this section:

6 "Plant" means any member of the plant kingdom, which bears
7 edible fruit, seeds, or roots."

8 SECTION 3. 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 establishment of a community food forest program.

12 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
13 land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

14 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

15 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.



Report Title:

Community Food Forest Program

Description:

Establishes a community food forest program in the Department of Land and Natural Resources that shall work collaboratively with local government and community organizations to provide sources of healthy food statewide. Appropriate funds. Effective July 1, 2014. (HB2177 HD1)

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

