

JAN 17 2014

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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 providing qualified farm mentors with funding.

12 The purpose of this Act is to improve food security and  
13 self-sufficiency in the State by encouraging the development and  
14 implementation of a whole system approach to agriculture in  
15 Hawaii.

16 SECTION 2. (a) There is established in the college of  
17 tropical agriculture and human resources at the University of  
18 Hawaii at Manoa an on-farm mentoring program that shall provide  
19 statewide and island-specific mentoring to teach farmers about  
20 methods to improve soil health by using whole system practices  
21 that recycle locally available organic, diverse plant and animal  
22 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 3. 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 provide  
 4 funding for grants awarded under the on-farm mentoring program  
 5 pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

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

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

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# S.B. NO. 2563

**Report Title:**

Agriculture; Food Sustainability; On-Farm Mentoring

**Description:**

Establishes on-farm mentoring program to teach and train farmers to utilize a whole system approach to agriculture. Appropriates funds. 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.*

