

JAN 17 2014

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAM.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that pursuant to
2 S.R. No. 150, regular session of 2013, the college of
3 agriculture, forestry, and natural resource management of the
4 University of Hawaii at Hilo conducted a feasibility study to
5 assess the demand for outreach, training, courses, and workshops
6 related to advancing agricultural production and processing in
7 the rural district of Puna. The findings of the college of
8 agriculture, forestry, and natural resource management support
9 the need for such outreach, training, courses, and workshops in
10 rural communities.

11 The legislature further finds that the University of Hawaii
12 at Hilo should establish a distance learning program to support
13 tropical agriculture and food production in rural communities.
14 The program will lead to improved employment and entrepreneurial
15 activities in rural communities. The program will also identify
16 educational and training needs and design a business incubator
17 approach to support job growth in these rural communities.



1 Initial focus will be on outreach to increase agricultural
2 production and processed products for local markets utilizing
3 emerging engineering programs and may be expanded to other
4 training and educational support systems to develop the local
5 workforce and entrepreneurs in a rural area. This program may
6 serve as a replicable model for distance learning programs that
7 can be extended to other rural areas of the State.

8 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for a
9 distance learning program within the University of Hawaii at
10 Hilo to support tropical agriculture and food production in
11 rural communities and create appropriate faculty positions.

12 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
14 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 to
15 establish a distance learning program within the University of
16 Hawaii at Hilo to support tropical agriculture and food
17 production in rural communities and to fund:

- 18 (1) One full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) community outreach
19 specialist;
- 20 (2) One full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) information
21 technology specialist; and



1 (3) One full-time equivalent instructional coordinator
2 (1.0 FTE).

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

5 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.

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S.B. NO. 2647

Report Title:

University of Hawaii at Hilo; Distance Learning; Agriculture; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for a distance learning program within the University of Hawaii at Hilo to support tropical agriculture and food production in rural communities and create appropriate faculty positions.

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