

JAN 18 2013

S.B. NO. 708

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE LEGACY LAND CONSERVATION PROGRAM.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that agriculture has a
2 long and valuable history in Hawaii and continues to be an
3 important industry, generating \$1,900,000,000 and forty-two
4 thousand jobs. With the decline of the sugar industry,
5 agricultural lands have been increasingly used by small farms to
6 grow diversified agricultural products that have gained
7 recognition in foreign and domestic markets. Despite the
8 importance of agriculture, only thirty-five per cent of legacy
9 land funds have been awarded to agriculture. Article XI,
10 section 3, of the Hawaii State Constitution requires the State
11 to conserve and protect agricultural lands and increase self-
12 sufficiency, and further directs the legislature to provide
13 standards and criteria to meet these requirements.

14 The purpose of this Act is to require the legacy land
15 conservation commission to recommend agricultural lands,
16 including arable areas and areas containing existing
17 agricultural infrastructure, as the top priority for acquisition
18 under the legacy land conservation program.



1 SECTION 2. Section 173A-2.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 "~~[+]~~§173A-2.6~~[+]~~ **Land acquisition priorities.** In advising
4 the department and the board, the commission shall give the
5 following lands, which are ranked in order of priority, from
6 highest to lowest, priority in its recommendations for
7 acquisitions:

8 (1) Land that are unique and productive agricultural
9 lands, including:

10 (A) Arable areas; and

11 (B) Lands with existing agricultural infrastructure;

12 [~~+1~~] (2) Lands having exceptional value due to the
13 presence of:

14 (A) Unique aesthetic resources;

15 (B) Unique and valuable cultural or archaeological
16 resources; or

17 (C) Habitats for threatened or endangered species of
18 flora, fauna, or aquatic resources;

19 [~~+2~~] (3) Lands that are in imminent danger of development;

20 [~~+3~~] (4) Lands that are in imminent danger of being
21 modified, changed, or used in a manner to diminish its
22 value;



Report Title:

Legacy Land Conservation Program; Land Acquisition Priorities

Description:

Amends section 173A-2.6, HRS, to require the legacy land conservation commission to recommend agricultural lands, including arable areas and areas containing existing agricultural infrastructure, as the top priority for acquisition under the legacy land conservation program.

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