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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL LANDS.

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

1           SECTION 1. Article XI, section 3 of the Hawaii State  
2 Constitution establishes the State's duty to "conserve and  
3 protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture,  
4 increase agricultural self-sufficiency and assure the  
5 availability of agriculturally suitable lands" and provides  
6 specialized protections for lands identified as important  
7 agricultural lands. In service of this duty, the legislature  
8 enacted Act 183, Session Laws of Hawaii 2005, which was codified  
9 in part III of chapter 205, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

10           Act 183 directed each county to work with government and  
11 community stakeholders to, within sixty months of receipt of  
12 state funds for the purpose, identify and map potential  
13 important agricultural lands within its jurisdiction and make  
14 recommendations to the state land use commission for the  
15 designation of these lands as important agricultural lands.  
16 Once designated, agricultural operations on important  
17 agricultural lands are eligible for a variety of state and  
18 county assistance and incentive programs including grants and



1 other funding assistance, tax incentives, favorable  
2 infrastructure and permit requirements, and farm and business  
3 education assistance. The legislature finds that, to date, the  
4 counties have not received state funds to assist with their  
5 identification and mapping duties under Act 183.

6 The purpose of this Act is to fully implement Act 183 in  
7 accordance with the State's constitutional duty to protect  
8 important agricultural lands by providing funds to the counties  
9 for the identification and mapping of important agricultural  
10 lands.

11 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
13 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and  
14 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
15 year 2016-2017 for grants-in-aid to the counties for the  
16 identification and mapping of important agricultural lands,  
17 preparation of the final submission package to the land use  
18 commission, and assistance with exploring county incentives for  
19 important agricultural lands, pursuant to section 205-47, Hawaii  
20 Revised Statutes, to be allocated as follows:

21 (1) \$ to the county of Hawaii;



- 1           (2)   \$                   to the city and county of Honolulu;
- 2           (3)   \$                   to the county of Kauai; and
- 3           (4)   \$                   to the county of Maui.

4           The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
5 of business, economic development, and tourism for the purposes  
6 of this Act.

7           SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.

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**Report Title:**

Important Agricultural Lands; Counties; Grants-in-Aid;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds for grants-in-aid to the counties for identifying and mapping important agricultural lands, preparing the final submission package to the land use commission, and assistance with exploring county incentives for important agricultural lands. Takes effect 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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

