
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 agricultural theft
2 and vandalism is a constant worry for farmers and ranchers.
3 Given the broad acreage that many farming and ranching
4 operations encompass, it is often difficult for farmers and
5 ranchers to police their entire operations at all times.
6 Furthermore, vigilance at night after work hours may be
7 challenging because not all farmers and ranchers are able to
8 live on or near the fields where they work. All of these
9 factors make agricultural operations easy prey for theft or
10 vandalism.

11 The legislature also finds that the county of Hawaii is
12 known as the breadbasket of the State. However, agricultural
13 theft and vandalism has been a constant threat for farmers and
14 ranchers on the island, increasing the cost of production and
15 making it more difficult for farming and ranching operations to
16 be successful.



1 The purpose of this Act is to establish a two-year
2 agricultural theft pilot project to focus on investigating and
3 prosecuting agricultural theft and vandalism in the county of
4 Hawaii.

5 SECTION 2. (a) The department of agriculture shall:

6 (1) Establish a two-year agricultural theft and vandalism
7 pilot project to focus on investigating and
8 prosecuting agricultural theft and agricultural
9 vandalism;

10 (2) Partner with the county of Hawaii to hire an
11 enforcement officer within the prosecuting attorney's
12 office; and

13 (3) No later than January 1, 2018, assess the
14 implementation of the pilot project, including the
15 pilot project's effectiveness for:

16 (A) Identifying the number of convictions for
17 agricultural theft and agricultural vandalism;

18 (B) Identifying best practices for prosecuting
19 perpetrators of agricultural theft and
20 agricultural vandalism;



- 1 (C) Identifying areas where agricultural theft and
2 agricultural vandalism are most prevalent;
- 3 (D) Identifying best practices for preventing
4 agricultural theft and agricultural vandalism;
5 and
- 6 (E) Making recommendations for a statewide program to
7 address agricultural theft and agricultural
8 vandalism.

9 (b) Based on the department of agriculture's assessment of
10 the agricultural theft and vandalism pilot project, the
11 department shall determine whether to continue, expand, or end
12 the pilot project.

13 (c) The department of agriculture shall submit a report of
14 its findings and recommendations, including any proposed
15 legislation, to the legislature no later than December 31, 2017.

16 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
18 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the
19 purposes of establishing and implementing a two-year
20 agricultural theft and vandalism pilot project.



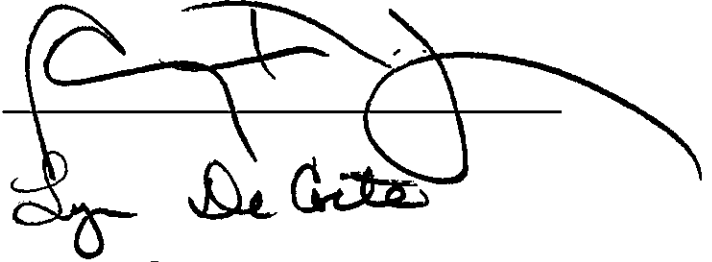
H.B. NO. 1996

1 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
2 agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

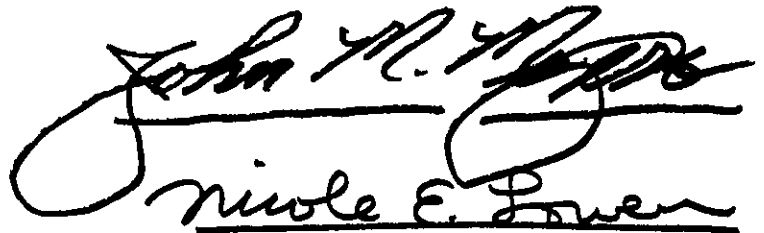
3 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.

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JAN 22 2016



H.B. NO. 1996

Report Title:

Agricultural Theft Pilot Project; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes a two-year Agricultural Theft Pilot Project in the Department of Agriculture to focus on investigating and prosecuting agricultural theft and agricultural vandalism in the County of Hawaii. Appropriates funds.

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