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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 agricultural theft  
2 and vandalism are 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 have 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.

17           The purpose of this Act is to establish a two-year  
18 agricultural theft and vandalism pilot project to focus on



1 investigating and prosecuting agricultural theft and vandalism  
2 in the county of Hawaii.

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

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

8 (2) Partner with the county of Hawaii to hire an  
9 enforcement officer within the prosecuting attorney's  
10 office or any other law enforcement agency; and

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

14 (A) Identifying the number of convictions for  
15 agricultural theft and agricultural vandalism;

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

19 (C) Identifying areas where agricultural theft and  
20 agricultural vandalism are most prevalent;



1 (D) Identifying best practices for preventing  
2 agricultural theft and agricultural vandalism;  
3 and

4 (E) Making recommendations for a statewide program to  
5 address agricultural theft and agricultural  
6 vandalism.

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

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

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

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

21 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on January 7, 2059.



**Report Title:**

Agricultural Theft and Vandalism Pilot Project; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes a two-year agricultural theft and vandalism 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. Takes effect on 1/7/2059. (SD1)

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