
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 Hawaii is located
2 approximately 2,506 miles from the continental United States.
3 About eighty-five to ninety per cent of Hawaii's food is
4 imported, which makes Hawaii particularly vulnerable to natural
5 disasters and global events that disrupt shipping and other
6 modes of transporting food. Furthermore, the economic impact of
7 food import replacement is significant. Food expenditures of
8 local consumers from 2004 to 2005 amounted to \$3,700,000,000.
9 Assuming that eighty-five per cent of the food consumed in the
10 State is imported, this translates to \$3,145,000,000 of food
11 expenditures leaving the State each year. Growing food within
12 the State enables the expenditures on food to remain in the
13 local economy.

14 The development of a whole farm system approach to
15 agriculture in Hawaii that pays close attention to soil health,
16 specifically increasing mineral availability and improving soil
17 structure, water-holding capacity, crop health, and food



1 nutrition levels, will lower water usage through deployment of
2 green manure, compost, and cover crops; reduce crop loss from
3 pest damage; and decrease weed pressure. This whole farm system
4 approach to agriculture can improve food security and benefit
5 the local economy through reducing production costs by promoting
6 locally sourced inputs and the manufacturing thereof. Teaching
7 a new generation of farmers to use this whole farm system
8 approach will create an alternative method of farming that
9 appeals to many young farmers across the State. Currently,
10 there is a shortage of qualified teachers for these farm
11 methods. On-farm mentoring aims to fulfill this need by
12 bringing the students to the farm and providing qualified farm
13 mentors with funding.

14 The purpose of this Act is to improve food security and
15 self-sufficiency in the State by encouraging the development and
16 implementation of a whole farm system approach to agriculture in
17 Hawaii.

18 SECTION 2. (a) There is established in the department of
19 agriculture an on-farm mentoring program that shall provide
20 existing on-farm mentoring programs with funding support to
21 teach farmers about methods to improve soil health by using



1 whole farm systems that practice sustainable agriculture as
2 defined by the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of
3 1990, Public Law 101-624, title XVI, subtitle A, section 1603,
4 that recycle locally available organic, diverse plant and animal
5 agricultural nutrients, enhanced by fermentation and other
6 ecological processes such as Korean natural farming as defined
7 by the University of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and
8 human resources.

9 (b) The chairperson of the board of agriculture shall
10 appoint one or more on-farm mentors for each island with a
11 population greater than five thousand; provided that the
12 chairperson of the board of agriculture may appoint an on-farm
13 mentor for an island with a population of five thousand or fewer
14 upon request.

15 (c) The department of agriculture shall establish
16 curriculum for the on-farm mentoring program in collaboration
17 with the education committee of the Hawaii Farmers Union United,
18 which:

19 (1) Shall include instruction on:

20 (A) Farming techniques that utilize locally sourced
21 organic and other ecological and bio-diverse



1 agricultural amendments and techniques relying on
2 integrated farming practices using vegetative and
3 animal waste products and diverse crops for soil
4 amendments, seed, and other farm inputs;

5 (B) The culturing and enhancement of indigenous
6 microorganisms; and

7 (C) The recycling of nutrients back onto the farm;
8 and

9 (2) May include instruction on:

10 (A) Farm management, including whole farm system
11 farming;

12 (B) Animal husbandry, including animal and crop
13 production;

14 (C) Crop management with an emphasis on soil health;

15 (D) Harvesting and storage for farmer cooperatives;

16 (E) Farm marketing with an emphasis on food
17 cooperatives;

18 (F) Integrated pest management and multi-cropping;
19 and

20 (G) The breeding and release of beneficial insects.



1 (d) The department of agriculture, as part of the on-farm
2 mentoring program, shall provide grants to support existing on-
3 farm mentoring programs and a pilot on-farm mentoring program in
4 the county of Maui.

5 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000 or so much
7 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 as a grant
8 pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to existing
9 on-farm mentoring programs and a pilot on-farm mentoring program
10 in the county of Maui to provide mentoring on a whole farm
11 system approach to agriculture.

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

14 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.
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INTRODUCED BY: Lyn DuCote

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JAN 26 2016



H.B. NO. 2584

Report Title:

Agriculture; Food Sustainability; On-farm Mentoring;
Appropriation

Description:

Establishes an on-farm mentoring program to teach and train farmers to utilize a whole farm system approach to agriculture. Appropriates funds as a grant for existing on-farm mentoring programs and a pilot on-farm mentoring program in Maui.

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