H.B. NO. 2674

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL THEFT.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that agricultural theft 2 and agricultural vandalism are a constant worry for farmers and 3 ranchers. Given the broad acreage that many farming operations 4 encompass, it is often difficult for farmers to police their entire operations at all times. Furthermore, vigilance at night 5 6 after work hours may be challenging because not all farmers and 7 ranchers are able to live on or near the fields where they work. 8 All of these factors make agricultural operations easy prey for 9 theft or vandalism.

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

16 The purpose of this Act is to establish a two-year17 agricultural theft pilot project to focus on investigating and



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1	prosecuting agricultural theft and agricultural vandalism in the			
2	county of	county of Hawaii.		
3	SECT	TION 2. (a) The department of agriculture shall:		
4	(1)	Esta	blish a two-year agricultural theft pilot project	
5		to f	ocus on investigating and prosecuting agricultural	
6	į	thef	t and agricultural vandalism;	
7	(2)	Part	ner with the county of Hawaii to hire an	
8		inve	stigative officer within the prosecuting	
9		atto	rney's office; and	
10	(3)	No l	ater than January 1, 2018, assess the	
11		implementation of the pilot project including the		
12		pilot project's effectiveness for:		
13		(A)	Identifying the number of convictions for	
14			agricultural theft and agricultural vandalism;	
15		(B)	Identifying best practices for prosecuting	
16			perpetrators of agricultural theft and	
17			agricultural vandalism;	
18		(C)	Identifying areas where agricultural theft and	
19			agricultural vandalism are most prevalent;	



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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) Base	d on the department of agriculture's assessment of	
8	the agricultur	al theft pilot project, the department shall	
9	determine whet	her to continue, expand, or end the pilot project.	
10	(c) The	department of agriculture shall submit a report of	
11	its findings a	nd recommendations, including any proposed	
12	legislation, t	o the legislature no later than December 31, 2017.	
13	SECTION 3	. There is appropriated out of the general	
14	revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$70,000 or so much		
15	thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 to the		
16	department of agriculture for the purposes of establishing and		
17	implementing a two-year agricultural theft pilot project.		
18	The sum a	ppropriated shall be expended by the department of	
19	agriculture for the purposes of this Act.		

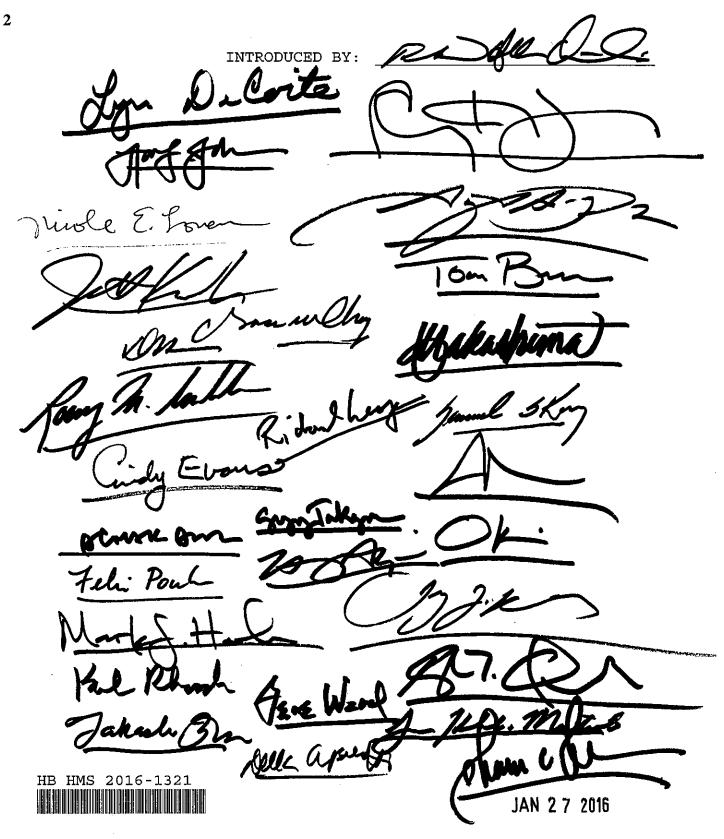


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SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.



н.в. no. 2674

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 to the Department of Agriculture.

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

