

---

---

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

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

1           SECTION 1. Farmers are required to have an approved  
2 conservation plan in order to access federal Farm Bill funds and  
3 to be in compliance with local grading and grubbing ordinances.  
4 However, the number of people qualified to write conservation  
5 plans in Hawaii is not sufficient to meet the demand. This can  
6 leave many Hawaii farmers, who may have relatively small  
7 operations as compared to the mainland, waiting two to four  
8 years to receive a conservation plan. Without an approved  
9 conservation plan, farmers are technically out of compliance  
10 with local regulations, leaving them subject to significant  
11 penalties if those rules are enforced.

12           Data from the 2013-2014 fiscal year indicates that just one  
13 hundred seventy new conservation plans were developed in Hawaii,  
14 accounting for roughly 2.5 per cent of the seven thousand farms  
15 operating in the State. Based on a five-year effective period,  
16 just 12.5 per cent of the State's farms have a current  
17 conservation plan. Furthermore, larger landowners are more



1 likely to have a conservation plan; the 12.5 per cent of farms  
2 with conservation plans control approximately forty per cent of  
3 agricultural acres in Hawaii.

4 The current conservation plan application system is  
5 available only to United States Department of Agriculture  
6 Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) employees and  
7 individuals working from local NRCS offices. The national NRCS  
8 policy prioritizes applications from farms seeking federal farm  
9 bill funding. A limited number of farmers, roughly one hundred  
10 forty, actively seek federal funding in any given year,  
11 resulting in ninety-eight per cent of Hawaii farms that are  
12 unable to obtain a conservation plan in a timely manner.

13 The development of an online interface for farmers and  
14 other agricultural professionals to input much of the data for a  
15 conservation plan will save time and money for all parties  
16 involved. The State of Idaho developed a similar online program  
17 for conservation plans called the Idaho One Plan.

18 The legislature finds that Hawaii could benefit from a  
19 similar program, to be called the "Hawaii one plan".

20 If such a program is implemented, the wait time to process  
21 a conservation plan would be reduced substantially. A full and



1 comprehensive conservation plan, which currently requires  
2 approximately fifty hours of staff time to analyze, could be  
3 built modularly, thereby giving basic plans to those that need  
4 it or more comprehensive plans to other farms that require it.  
5 If the Hawaii one program is successful in setting up and  
6 rolling out the basic foundational pieces, focused primarily on  
7 soil erosion measures, the amount of technical staff time needed  
8 to process the application can be reduced to an estimated  
9 fifteen hours. Furthermore, through the creation of a focused  
10 and streamlined Hawaii one program conservation plan application  
11 system, farmers should be more likely to participate in  
12 obtaining a conservation plan. The Hawaii one plan would help  
13 the roughly 87.5 per cent of farmers, farming sixty per cent of  
14 agricultural land, who currently do not have a conservation plan  
15 to obtain one.

16 The Hawaii one plan would be based on existing standards  
17 and practices for soil conservation. The goal for the Hawaii  
18 one plan is to build the software modularly with the potential  
19 to add topics like wildlife and pesticide management in the  
20 future.



1 Previously, the department of agriculture and department of  
2 land and natural resources made some progress in developing an  
3 online conservation application; however, sufficient access to  
4 server space became an issue, and the subsequent recession of  
5 2008 created funding cuts for both departments. The department  
6 of agriculture now has the capacity to house a host server, if  
7 required. Other nongovernmental organizations have garnered  
8 financial and in-kind support from local partners, which could  
9 be used to complete the fundraising needed to develop and  
10 deliver the Hawaii one plan.

11 The purpose of this Act is to:

- 12 (1) Provide for the establishment and promotion of the  
13 Hawaii one plan as a primary computer-based  
14 conservation planning process for all natural resource  
15 concerns to be accomplished through a steering  
16 committee containing private and state representation  
17 and inviting federal representation;
- 18 (2) Deem the information provided by those using the  
19 Hawaii one plan to be trade secrets, production  
20 records, or other proprietary information, and keep



1 the information confidential and exempt from  
2 disclosure; and

3 (3) Appropriate funds for the implementation and operation  
4 of the Hawaii one plan to provide conservation plans  
5 online.

6 SECTION 2. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by  
7 adding a new chapter to title 11 to be appropriately designated  
8 and to read as follows:

9 **"CHAPTER**

10 **HAWAII ONE PLAN**

11 **§ -1 Definitions.** As used in this chapter, unless the  
12 context requires otherwise:

13 "Department" means the department of agriculture.

14 "Hawaii one plan" means a primary computer-based soil and  
15 water conservation plan application system for farmers and other  
16 agricultural professionals.

17 "Steering committee" means the Hawaii one plan steering  
18 committee.

19 **§ -2 Hawaii one plan steering committee; established.**

20 (a) There is established the Hawaii one plan steering committee  
21 within the department for administrative purposes. The steering



1 committee shall design the Hawaii one plan, identify the  
2 appropriate location to host the Hawaii one plan's server, and  
3 implement the Hawaii one plan.

4 (b) The steering committee shall:

5 (1) Consist of the following members:

6 (A) The executive director of the Hawaii Association  
7 of Conservation Districts or the executive  
8 director's designee, who shall serve as chair of  
9 the steering committee;

10 (B) The executive director of the Oahu Resource  
11 Conservation and Development Council or the  
12 executive director's designee;

13 (C) The state chief information officer or the chief  
14 information officer's designee; and

15 (D) The chairperson of the board of agriculture or  
16 the chairperson's designee; and

17 (2) Invite the following individuals to become members:

18 (A) The president of the Hawaii Farm Bureau  
19 Federation or the president's designee;

20 (B) The president of the Hawaii Farmers Union United  
21 or the president's designee;



- 1 (C) The managing director of the Ulupono Initiative
- 2 or the managing director's designee;
- 3 (D) The president of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
- 4 or the president's designee;
- 5 (E) Three representatives of the farming community to
- 6 be chosen by the executive director of the Hawaii
- 7 Association of Conservation Districts; and
- 8 (F) Members of the United States Department of
- 9 Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation
- 10 Service.

11 (c) The steering committee's members shall serve without  
 12 compensation but shall be reimbursed for expenses, including  
 13 travel expenses, necessary for the performance of their duties.

14 (d) In the performance of its duties, the steering  
 15 committee shall consult with appropriate private, nonprofit,  
 16 community, and government stakeholders.

17 **§ -3 Proprietary information; confidentiality.** The  
 18 information provided by a user of the Hawaii one plan shall be  
 19 deemed to be trade secrets, production records, or other  
 20 proprietary information, and shall be confidential and exempt  
 21 from disclosure pursuant to chapter 92F."



1 SECTION 3. The Hawaii one plan steering committee shall  
2 submit a report of the funding status and implementation  
3 progress of the Hawaii one plan to the legislature no later than  
4 twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of  
5 2016.

6 The steering committee shall also submit a follow-up report  
7 to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the  
8 convening of the regular session of 2017.

9 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1 or so much thereof  
11 as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 for the  
12 implementation and operation of the Hawaii one plan to provide  
13 conservation plans online.

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

16 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.





**Report Title:**

Department of Agriculture; Hawaii One Plan; Conservation Plan;  
Steering Committee; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes the Hawaii One Plan Steering Committee.  
Appropriates funds to develop and operate the Hawaii One Plan to  
provide conservation plans online. (SB512 HD1)

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

