THE SENATE TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE, 2017 STATE OF HAWAII

S.B. NO. 24

JAN 192017

### 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 agricultural vandalism are constant worries for farmers and ranchers. Given the broad acreage that many farming operations 3 4 encompass, it is often difficult for farmers to police their 5 entire operations at all times. Furthermore, vigilance at night 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 or agricultural vandalism has 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 or agricultural vandalism in the			
2	county of Hawaii.			
3	SECTION 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		thef	t or agricultural vandalism;	
7	(2)	Part	ner with the county of Hawaii to hire an	
8		enfo	rcement officer within the prosecuting attorney's	
9		offi	ce; and	
10	(3)	No l	ater than January 1, 2019, 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 or agricultural vandalism;	
15		(B)	Identifying best practices for prosecuting	
16			perpetrators of agricultural theft or	
17			agricultural vandalism;	
18		(C)	Identifying areas where agricultural theft or	
19			agricultural vandalism are most prevalent;	
20		(D)	Identifying best practices for preventing	
21			agricultural theft or agricultural vandalism; and	



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1	(E) Making recommendations for a statewide program to
2	address agricultural theft or agricultural
3	vandalism.
4	(b) Based on the department of agriculture's assessment of
5	the agricultural theft pilot project, the department shall
6	determine whether to continue, expand, or end the pilot project.
7	(c) The department of agriculture shall submit a report of
8	its findings and recommendations, including any proposed
9	legislation, to the legislature no later than December 31, 2018.
10	SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
11	revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
12	much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 as a
13	grant-in-aid to the office of the prosecuting attorney, county
14	of Hawaii to assist the department of agriculture in
15	implementing a two-year agricultural theft pilot project.
16	The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
17	agriculture for the purposes of this Act.
18	SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.
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INTRODUCED BY: 2014 Apraîre g. prove



## S.B. NO. 24

**Report Title:** Agricultural Theft Pilot Project; Appropriation

#### Description:

Requires the department of agriculture to establish a two-year agricultural theft pilot project to focus on investigating and prosecuting agricultural theft or agricultural vandalism in the county of Hawaii. Appropriates funds as a grant-in-aid to the office of the prosecuting attorney, county of Hawaii, to assist in implementing the pilot project.

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