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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL FOOD PRODUCTION.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii is located  
2 approximately two thousand five hundred miles from the  
3 continental United States. About eighty-five to ninety per cent  
4 of Hawaii's food is imported, which makes Hawaii particularly  
5 vulnerable to natural disasters and global events that disrupt  
6 shipping and other modes of transporting food. Furthermore, the  
7 economic impact of food import replacement is significant. Food  
8 expenditures of local consumers from 2004 to 2005 totaled  
9 \$3,700,000,000. Assuming that eighty-five per cent of the food  
10 consumed in the State is imported, that means \$3,145,000,000 of  
11 food expenditures leave the State each year. Growing food  
12 within the State enables the expenditures on food to remain in  
13 the local economy.

14       The office of planning, in cooperation with the department  
15 of agriculture, issued a report in October 2012, titled  
16 *Increased Food Security and Food Self-Sufficiency Strategy: A*  
17 *State Strategic/Functional Plan Prepared in Accordance with HRS*



Chapter 226 Hawaii State Plan and the Hawaii Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. The executive summary of the report states in pertinent part:

The purpose of the *Increased Food Security and Food Self-Sufficiency Strategy (Strategy)* is to increase the amount of locally grown food consumed by Hawaii residents. This will increase food self-sufficiency which is a component of food security. The Strategy is a living document intended as a first step toward continued dialog and implementation.

The three strategic objectives of the *Increased Food Security and Food Self-Sufficiency Strategy* are:

- (1) Increasing demand for and access to locally grown foods;
- (2) Increasing production of locally grown foods; and
- (3) Providing policy and organizational support to meet food self-sufficiency needs.

The legislature further finds that the development of higher education systems in Hawaii to promote understanding of sustainable food production and training a new generation of students for jobs in the sustainable food and agriculture sector



1 is an essential part of meeting the strategic objectives of the  
2 *Increased Food Security and Food Self-Sufficiency Strategy*.

3 The purpose of this Act is to improve food security and  
4 self-sufficiency in the State by:

5 (1) Encouraging the development and expansion of higher  
6 education focused on sustainable food systems within  
7 the State; and

8 (2) Appropriating funds to achieve that objective.

9 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
11 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for  
12 the community food systems program at the University of Hawaii  
13 West Oahu to expand upon its existing education for sustainable  
14 agricultural food production by:

15 (1) Establishing scholarships for interested students to  
16 enroll in the community food systems program at the  
17 University of Hawaii West Oahu;

18 (2) Creating job and on-site training opportunities by  
19 generating positions for a full-time garden manager  
20 and part-time student assistants for the student  
21 organic garden at the University of Hawaii West Oahu;



1           (3)    Creating a Hawaiian center for sustainable community  
2                    food systems, a two hundred-acre education, training,  
3                    outreach, food processing, and applied research  
4                    center; provided that prior to creating and  
5                    implementing the center the University of Hawaii West  
6                    Oahu shall conduct and submit to the legislature a  
7                    study that determines the feasibility and benefits of  
8                    creating a center; and

9           (4)    Implementing research projects, hosting conferences  
10                   and public education events, conducting program  
11                   outreach and recruitment, and employing additional  
12                   staff and faculty to advance sustainable agriculture  
13                   and food systems in Hawaii as the director of the  
14                   program deems necessary.

15           The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of  
16   Hawaii West Oahu for the purposes of this Act.

17           SECTION 3.   This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.



**Report Title:**

University of Hawaii; Food Security and Self-sufficiency  
Education; Hawaiian Center for Sustainable Community Food  
Systems; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds for the University of Hawaii West Oahu to  
expand its existing programs and develop new means to increase  
food security and self-sufficiency in the State. Takes effect  
7/1/2025. (SD1)

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