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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE EDUCATION.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the average age of  
2 farmers in Hawaii is over sixty years, and Hawaii does not have  
3 an adequate-sized farming workforce for expansion of cultivated  
4 agricultural lands and food production. A primary cause of the  
5 shortage of new farmers in Hawaii during the past several  
6 decades is the decline of support for agriculture education from  
7 state government, including training for agriculture teachers,  
8 resulting in an insufficient interest in pursuing the fields of  
9 agriculture and natural resource management among youth.  
10 Prospective farmers face challenges in terms of access to land,  
11 and farming today requires a more diverse skill set than in the  
12 past, including crop and livestock production, marketing, food  
13 safety, regulatory compliance, environmental stewardship,  
14 business skills, and more. Whereas ancestral Hawaiians were  
15 completely self-sufficient, today Hawaii imports approximately  
16 eighty-five to ninety per cent of our food, and the health of  
17 Hawaii's people, 'āina, and food systems is suffering.



1           In order to meet the State's aspirations for increased food  
2 security and self-sufficiency, the number of local farms and  
3 farmers and the amount of food produced for local markets will  
4 need to increase significantly. Agriculture education is key to  
5 the development of future farmers and to a society that values  
6 and understands the vital role of agriculture, food, fiber, and  
7 natural resource systems in advancing personal, local, and  
8 global well-being. During the past decade, a vibrant grassroots  
9 movement in support of agriculture education has emerged in  
10 Hawaii, along with a marked increase in new farmer training  
11 programs and student involvement in Future Farmers of America.

12           To encourage this momentum, the Hawaii state senate passed  
13 Senate Resolution No. 80, Regular Session of 2015, that  
14 requested the University of Hawaii at Manoa college of tropical  
15 agriculture and human resources to "convene a working group to  
16 develop a coordinated framework of support for preschool through  
17 post-secondary (P-20) agriculture education and a plan for  
18 implementation", including any proposed legislation, through  
19 annual reports to the legislature prior to the 2017, 2018, and  
20 2019 legislative sessions.



1 For three years, the University of Hawaii at Manoa college  
2 of tropical agriculture and human resources has convened the  
3 P-20 agriculture education working group, which includes  
4 governmental and non-governmental stakeholders. The group's  
5 final report to the 2019 legislature outlines a coordinated  
6 framework of support for P-20 agriculture education in Hawaii  
7 and asserts that implementation of the framework will require  
8 that a P-20 agriculture education coordinator position be  
9 established within the University of Hawaii at Manoa college of  
10 tropical agriculture and human resources and funded for the  
11 purposes of overseeing ongoing communication and collaboration  
12 of the P-20 agriculture education working group and spearheading  
13 the implementation plan.

14 The legislature finds that effectuation of the coordinated  
15 framework of support for P-20 agriculture education in Hawaii by  
16 the P-20 agriculture education coordinator and working group  
17 will result in the following desired outcomes:

- 18 (1) Increased number of students exposed to agriculture  
19 education at all levels (P-20) in public, charter, and  
20 independent schools;



- 1           (2) Increased number of public school students entering  
2           and completing the career and technical education  
3           natural resources career pathway in agriculture;
- 4           (3) Increased number of students entering and completing  
5           higher education programs in agriculture and food  
6           systems;
- 7           (4) Increased number of teachers trained in agriculture  
8           education;
- 9           (5) Increased number of local farms and farmers; and
- 10          (6) Increased local food supply and food security.

11          The purpose of this Act is to establish and fund the P-20  
12          agriculture education coordinator position within the University  
13          of Hawaii at Manoa college of tropical agriculture and human  
14          resources to oversee ongoing communication and collaboration of  
15          the P-20 agriculture education working group and to lead the  
16          implementation plan for a coordinated framework of support for  
17          P-20 agriculture education in Hawaii.

18          SECTION 2. Chapter 304A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
19          amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
20          and to read as follows:



1           "§304A- P-20 agriculture education coordinator. There  
2 is established within the University of Hawaii at Manoa college  
3 of tropical agriculture and human resources the position of  
4 coordinator of preschool through post-secondary (P-20)  
5 agriculture education to oversee ongoing communication and  
6 collaboration of the P-20 agriculture education working group  
7 and to lead implementation of the coordinated framework of  
8 support for P-20 agriculture education in Hawaii."

9           SECTION 3. The P-20 agriculture education coordinator and  
10 working group shall carry out the implementation plan for the  
11 coordinated framework of support for P-20 agriculture education  
12 in Hawaii as follows:

- 13           (1) Teacher development: Prioritize teacher training in  
14 agriculture and food systems education at all levels  
15 (P-20) for those preparing to become teachers ("pre-  
16 service teachers"), as well as additional professional  
17 development for those already in classrooms ("in-  
18 service teachers");
- 19           (2) Curricular integration: Integrate agriculture  
20 education into the core curriculum in all subject  
21 areas at all levels (P-20);



- 1           (3) Agriculture educators: Establish and fund positions
- 2                   at the state, community, and school levels that
- 3                   directly support teacher development and curricular
- 4                   integration around agriculture and food systems; and
- 5           (4) Capacity building:
- 6                   (A) Continue communication and collaboration of the
- 7                           P-20 agriculture education working group and
- 8                           subcommittees;
- 9                   (B) Plan and conduct ongoing needs assessments and
- 10                   progress evaluations;
- 11                   (C) Cultivate new partnerships and seek alignment
- 12                           with other relevant initiatives, including the
- 13                           department of labor and industrial relations
- 14                           agriculture workforce advisory group;
- 15                   (D) Identify and write proposals for additional
- 16                           sources of funding; and
- 17                   (E) Oversee publication of an annual report to the
- 18                           legislature.

19           SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                   or so much  
21 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the

1 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
2 2020-2021 to establish and fund the P-20 agriculture education  
3 coordinator position within the University of Hawaii at Manoa  
4 college of tropical agriculture and human resources to oversee  
5 ongoing communication and collaboration of the P-20 agriculture  
6 education working group and to lead the implementation plan for  
7 a coordinated framework of support for P-20 agriculture  
8 education in Hawaii.

9       The sums appropriated shall be expended by the University  
10 of Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

11       SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

12       SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2150.



**Report Title:**

University of Hawaii; P-20 Agriculture Education Coordinator;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes and appropriates funds for the P-20 Agriculture Education Coordinator position within the University of Hawaii at Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. Specifies duties of the Coordinator and P-20 agriculture education working group. (HB1102 HD2)

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