
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE
HONALO MARSHALLING YARD.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Honalo
2 marshalling yard in Kona, Hawaii, was built twenty-five years
3 ago, but was not utilized to its full potential until the Hawaii
4 ‘Ulu Cooperative began its operations at the facility in 2017.
5 The cooperative has grown to sixty-five local farm members,
6 serving public schools, hospitals, hotels, and restaurants
7 statewide. However, the facility's existing equipment and
8 infrastructure do not support the projected production of ten
9 thousand pounds per day, or two million pounds per year of ulu
10 and other co-crops.

11 Cooperatives are needed to help achieve the State's
12 ambitious goals for expanded local food production and
13 agricultural development because Hawaii's farming community is
14 dominated by small-scale operators, where ninety-five per cent
15 of farmers generate less than \$250,000 per year. These
16 operators must work together to realize economies of scale and



1 meet local food demand with export market potential. Only by
2 pooling resources and leveraging collective capabilities will
3 the State meet its goals, such as the Aloha+ Challenge. While
4 farmers continue to improve the State's self-sufficiency for
5 certain food groups like fruit and beef, the State remains
6 dependent on imports of whole grains or starches like rice,
7 wheat, and potatoes. Ulu has the unique potential to help
8 reverse this scenario. It is among the most sustainable staple
9 foods globally because it grows on a perennial tree, which
10 eliminates the need for annual tilling and replanting. Ulu also
11 provides other ecosystem services like carbon sequestration and
12 soil and water retention. Moreover, ulu is a prolific producer
13 with average yields of three hundred pounds per tree per year
14 and requires far less fertilizer and pesticides than comparable
15 staple crops. In addition, it is a culturally appropriate food
16 and historically played an important role in Hawaii's food
17 sovereignty. It is also highly nutritious, gluten-free, low
18 glycemic, and high protein, making it increasingly compelling in
19 the national and international food market as a high-value
20 density export crop.



Report Title:

Capital Improvement Project; Honalo Marshalling Yard; Department of Agriculture

Description:

Appropriates funds for a capital improvement project for the Honalo Marshalling Yard. (HB770 HD1)

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