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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FOOD SAFETY.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii is the most  
2 geographically isolated state in the country and imports  
3 approximately ninety-two per cent of its food, according to the  
4 Pacific Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments Program.  
5 Each food product imported to Hawaii is a lost opportunity for  
6 local economic growth. According to the university of Hawaii  
7 college of tropical agriculture and human resources, an increase  
8 in the production and sale of Hawaii-grown food would contribute  
9 to significant job creation. Increasing the amount of locally  
10 grown food by ten per cent could keep hundreds of millions of  
11 dollars circulating within Hawaii's economy, stimulate growth in  
12 agriculture, and create over two thousand new jobs. Such  
13 diversification would help make Hawaii's food supply and economy  
14 more resilient to worldwide events.

15           The federal Food and Drug Administration is implementing  
16 more comprehensive food safety regulations for agriculture under  
17 the 2011 Food Safety Modernization Act. The deadline for small



1 farms to comply with the Food Safety Modernization Act is  
2 January 2019, and for very small farms, the deadline is January  
3 2020. Ninety per cent of Hawaii's 3,682 farms are small to very  
4 small farms, and many of those farms are adversely affected both  
5 by the cost of food safety certification and the time needed to  
6 develop and implement these requirements. By January 2020, most  
7 local retailers and distributors will only purchase products  
8 from safety-certified farms. To meet existing customer demand,  
9 buyers will import products that are no longer available from  
10 local sources, increasing the State's dependency on imported  
11 food.

12 In Hawaii, small- and medium-sized farms are key to  
13 increasing the supply of locally grown food. Many farms  
14 currently grow only what can be sold in direct-to-consumer  
15 markets, often leaving much of their land uncultivated.  
16 Compliance with food safety regulations and increasing demand  
17 for locally grown food provides an opportunity for small and  
18 medium size farms to expand production to meet these new market  
19 conditions.

20 The legislature additionally finds that food safety  
21 certification of Hawaii farms, a critical first step toward



1 compliance with the Food Safety Modernization Act, can lead to  
2 increased market access and opportunities to increase  
3 production. The United States Department of Agriculture created  
4 the good agricultural practices certification program, the most  
5 common certification standard required by produce buyers. The  
6 good agricultural practices certification program is a voluntary  
7 program designed to reduce the risk of foodborne illness  
8 originating with produce at the farm level through  
9 implementation of preventative food safety best practices and  
10 record keeping. Hawaii's small to medium farmers require direct  
11 training assistance to successfully implement good agricultural  
12 practices and obtain good agricultural practices or an  
13 equivalent certification.

14 The preservation of small, diversified farming businesses  
15 adds to and diversifies Hawaii's economy, helps redress the  
16 imbalance in agricultural trade, and promotes food resiliency.  
17 Reducing the burden on small to medium farmers seeking costly,  
18 but necessary, certifications and inspections will allow many  
19 farms to secure good agricultural practices certification or an  
20 equivalent before the January 2020 Food Safety Modernization Act



1 compliance deadline and will provide Hawaii an ongoing food  
2 safety resource.

3 The purpose of this Act is to require the university of  
4 Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and human resources to  
5 partner with the agricultural community to establish a  
6 certification-focused food safety training program to assist  
7 small- to medium-sized farms in obtaining food safety  
8 certification.

9 SECTION 2. The university of Hawaii college of tropical  
10 agriculture and human resources shall partner with the  
11 agriculture community of Hawaii to establish a food safety  
12 certification training program that will provide direct  
13 implementation assistance to small- and medium-sized farms to  
14 obtain a United States Department of Agriculture good  
15 agricultural practice certification or an equivalent  
16 certification.

17 For purposes of this section "small- and medium-sized farm"  
18 means a farm that has an annual food sale revenue of \$500,000 or  
19 less.

20 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much



1 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the  
2 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
3 2020-2021 for the university of Hawaii college of tropical  
4 agriculture and human resources to implement a food safety  
5 certification training program as provided in section 2 of this  
6 Act.

7 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the university  
8 of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and human resources  
9 for the purposes of this Act.

10 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources; Food Safety; Certification Training Program; Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources to partner with the Hawaii agriculture community to establish a food safety certification training program to provide assistance to small- and medium-sized farms in obtaining a United States Department of Agriculture Good Agricultural Practices certification or an equivalent certification. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

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

