
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO BEGINNING FARMER TRAINING.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that it is necessary to
2 support beginning farmers in the State by partnering with
3 nonprofit organizations to provide training opportunities to
4 these farmers. The legislature further finds that applicable
5 nonprofit organizations, especially those in rural areas, lack
6 sufficient resources to expand existing training programs. The
7 legislature believes that a beginning farmer training program
8 could increase farming in the State, ensure the continued use of
9 well-developed farming methods, and provide for the cultivation
10 of new farming methods.

11 The legislature acknowledges that new and aspiring farmers
12 face a myriad of challenges, including acquiring adequate
13 production and business knowledge and skills and accessing the
14 tools necessary to evaluate their resources and develop feasible
15 farming and business plans. However, the State lacks qualified
16 farming method teachers and funding for beginning farmer
17 training. Further, although the United State's Department of



1 Agriculture provides funding for beginning farmers, this funding
2 is limited and unreliable.

3 The legislature believes that the future of the State's
4 farming industry, food supply, and agriculture is reliant upon
5 increasing and diversifying the number of new farmers in the
6 State; introducing regenerative farming methods into the State;
7 enhancing the long-term viability of farm businesses; utilizing
8 and building upon existing beginning farmer training methods;
9 providing opportunities for potential farmers who are socially
10 or financially disadvantaged; and increasing support for
11 beginning farmers who already own or manage a farm, and have
12 farmed for five years or less.

13 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish the
14 beginning farmer training program to be administered by the
15 department of agriculture.

16 SECTION 2. Chapter 141, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
17 amended by adding a new section to part I, to be appropriately
18 designated and to read as follows:

19 "§141- Beginning farmer training program; established.

20 (a) There is established the beginning farmer training program



1 to be administered by the department of agriculture in
2 conjunction with qualified farmer training providers.

3 (b) The department of agriculture shall:

4 (1) Collaborate with; consult with; and provide funding,
5 information, and educational resources to qualified
6 farmer training providers;

7 (2) Implement strategies to increase the number of new
8 farmers in the State, with a focus on recruiting low-
9 income persons, disabled persons, and military
10 veterans;

11 (3) Assist qualified farmer training providers seeking
12 federal and county funding to expand their training
13 offerings;

14 (4) Evaluate the effectiveness of the farmer training
15 program;

16 (5) Subject to the availability of funding, distribute
17 funding to as many training programs as is practical
18 to achieve the purpose of program; and

19 (6) Retain records of all activities and costs related to
20 the implementation of the beginning farmer training
21 program.



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1 (c) A beginning farmer shall be eligible for training for a
2 maximum of one year; provided that the beginning farmer:

3 (1) Qualifies for Hawaii resident tuition or provides
4 proof that the beginning farmer has been farming for
5 no more than five years;

6 (2) Maintains satisfactory academic progress; and

7 (3) Demonstrates an interest in pursuing a career in the
8 State's agricultural industry.

9 (d) Subject to the availability of funding, the department
10 of agriculture may enter into contracts with qualified farmer
11 training providers on a first come, first served basis and in
12 accordance with section 103D-304 to effectuate the purpose of
13 this section; provided that:

14 (1) No contract shall be more than \$100,000 per year per
15 provider;

16 (2) The term of any contract shall be no longer than one
17 year;

18 (3) No qualified farmer training provider may receive more
19 than \$300,000 in aggregate for services procured
20 pursuant to this section during any five-year period;



1 (4) Any requests for proposals submitted pursuant to this
2 section shall include:

3 (A) Types and quantities of training services,
4 including hours of hands-on instruction;

5 (B) Criteria for evaluating the success of the
6 beginning farmer;

7 (C) Total estimated cost;

8 (D) Qualifications of the provider's trainers;

9 (E) Proposed dates of training; and

10 (F) A summary of any previous funding received
11 pursuant to this section.

12 (e) Training services procured pursuant to subsection (d)
13 may include the following topics:

14 (1) The proper methods of:

15 (A) Planting, tending, cultivating, and harvesting
16 various types of crops; and

17 (B) Raising livestock or poultry;

18 (2) Soil health;

19 (3) Agricultural business operations, including workforce
20 issues, regulatory compliance, and general operations;

21 and



1 (4) An industry analysis of the agricultural industry and
2 related markets.

3 (f) A qualified farmer training provider providing
4 services pursuant to this section shall make available for
5 inspection and examination by the department of agriculture
6 during regular business hours all related training materials,
7 sites, and facilities.

8 (g) The department of agriculture shall submit a report to
9 the legislature no later than twenty days prior to each regular
10 session. The report shall include at a minimum:

11 (1) The number of beginning farmers enrolled in the
12 beginning farmer training program during the preceding
13 year;

14 (2) A description of each qualified farming training
15 provider;

16 (3) An assessment of the ability of program participants
17 to complete project objectives and work tasks; and

18 (4) An evaluation of the results achieved by the program,
19 to be written, to the extent possible, in measurable
20 and quantifiable terms.

21 (h) As used in this section:



1 "Beginning farmer" means a person who has been farming for
2 no more than five years and is eighteen years of age or older.

3 "Qualified farmer training provider" means a nonprofit
4 organization with more than two years of experience offering
5 farmer training programs and that is engaged in the growth,
6 cultivation, or raising of crops, livestock, poultry, poultry
7 products, or dairy products; provided that this term shall not
8 include facilities primarily engaged in processing agricultural
9 products."

10 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$2,000,000 or so much
12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 to
13 establish and implement the beginning farmer development
14 program.

15 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
16 agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

17 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020;
18 provided that section 2 of this Act shall be repealed on
19 June 30, 2025.

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INTRODUCED BY:

Richard Luu
George M. Ishii



Steve E. Lamm

Blakeslee

D. H. H.

[Signature]

Ch. Todd

Doug Carnas

Amy Parnas

Lyn DeCorte

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Report Title:

HDOA; Beginning Farmer Training Program; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes a 5-year beginning farmer training program to be administered by the Department of Agriculture. Appropriates moneys.

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