
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that greenhouse gas
2 emissions are contributing to a climate crisis, with potentially
3 dire consequences for the State. Carbon sequestration, the act
4 of drawing carbon out of the air and into trees and soil, is an
5 important tool in reversing the climate crisis. Trees sequester
6 carbon through photosynthesis and soil carbon sequestration is
7 the process in which carbon dioxide is removed from the
8 atmosphere and stored in the soil carbon pool. This is the
9 combined result of increasing the amount of plant roots and
10 residues returned to the soil, decreased decomposition from soil
11 tillage, and decreased soil erosion. Growing more organic plant
12 food locally in Hawaii will provide greater food security and
13 reduce the use of fossil fuels to import plant food by air or
14 ship.

15 The legislature further finds that in order to assist in
16 reversing the levels of greenhouse gases, the agricultural
17 development and food security special fund should provide grants



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1 for afforestation, reforestation, soil carbon sequestration, and
2 local organic plant food production in the State.

3 The purpose of this Act is to authorize the agricultural
4 development and food security special fund to be used to award
5 grants to persons proposing to engage in afforestation,
6 reforestation, soil carbon sequestration, or local organic plant
7 food production in the State.

8 SECTION 2. Section 141-10, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
9 amended by amending subsections (c) and (d) to read as follows:

10 "(c) Subject to legislative appropriation, moneys in the
11 special fund may be expended for the following purposes:

12 (1) The awarding of grants to farmers for agricultural
13 production or processing activity;

14 (2) The awarding of grants not to exceed \$ _____ per
15 grantee to persons proposing to engage in
16 afforestation, reforestation, soil carbon
17 sequestration, or local organic plant food production
18 in the State;

19 [~~2~~] (3) The acquisition of real property for agricultural
20 production or processing activity;



- 1 [~~3~~] (4) The improvement of real property, dams,
2 reservoirs, irrigation systems, and transportation
3 networks necessary to promote agricultural production
4 or processing activity, including investigative
5 studies to identify and assess necessary improvements
6 to dams, reservoirs, irrigation systems, and
7 transportation networks;
- 8 [~~4~~] (5) The purchase of equipment necessary for
9 agricultural production or processing activity;
- 10 [~~5~~] (6) The conduct of research on and testing of
11 agricultural products and markets;
- 12 [~~6~~] (7) The funding of agricultural inspector positions
13 within the department of agriculture;
- 14 [~~7~~] (8) The promotion and marketing of agricultural
15 products grown or raised in the State;
- 16 [~~8~~] (9) Water quality testing and improvement; and
- 17 [~~9~~] (10) Any other activity intended to increase
18 agricultural production or processing that may lead to
19 reduced importation of food, fodder, or feed from
20 outside the State.



1 (d) The department of agriculture shall submit a report to
2 the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening
3 of each regular session on the status and progress of existing
4 programs and activities and the status of new programs and
5 activities funded under the agricultural development and food
6 security special fund. The report shall also include:

7 (1) The spending plan of the agricultural development and
8 food security special fund;

9 (2) All expenditures of agricultural development and food
10 security special fund moneys;

11 (3) The targeted markets of the expenditures, including
12 the reason for selecting those markets;

13 (4) The persons to be served using the expenditures; [~~and~~]

14 (5) The specific objectives of the expenditures, including
15 measurable outcomes[~~-~~]; and

16 (6) A listing of grants and amounts granted pursuant to
17 subsection (c) (2)."

18 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
19 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

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1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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JAN 17 2020



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Report Title:

Afforestation; Reforestation; Soil Carbon Sequestration; Local Organic Food Production; Reporting

Description:

Authorizes the agricultural development and food security special fund to be used to award grants to individuals proposing to engage in afforestation, reforestation, soil carbon sequestration, or local organic plant food production in the State. Requires the department of agriculture to submit a listing of grants and amounts granted to persons who engaged in afforestation, reforestation, soil carbon sequestration, or local organic plant food production in the State.

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