
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.

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 sixty years, and Hawaii does not have
3 farming workforce large enough 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 has been the decline of support for agriculture
7 education from state government, including training for
8 agriculture teachers, resulting in an insufficient interest in
9 pursuing the fields of agriculture and natural resource
10 management among youth.

11 The legislature finds that prospective farmers in the State
12 face numerous challenges, including access to land. Further,
13 farming today requires a more diverse skill set than in the
14 past, including crop and livestock production, marketing, food
15 safety, regulatory compliance, environmental stewardship,
16 business skills, and more. While ancestral Hawaiians were
17 completely self-sufficient, Hawaii today imports approximately



1 eighty-five to ninety per cent of the State's food, and the
2 health of Hawaii's people, land, and food system is suffering.

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

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



1 annual reports to the legislature prior to the 2017, 2018, and
2 2019 legislative sessions.

3 For three years, the university of Hawaii at Manoa college
4 of tropical agriculture and human resources convened the P-20
5 agriculture education working group, which includes governmental
6 and non-governmental stakeholders. The group's final report to
7 the 2019 legislature outlines a coordinated framework of support
8 for P-20 agriculture education in Hawaii. The legislature finds
9 that effectuation of the coordinated framework of support for
10 P-20 agriculture education in Hawaii by the workforce
11 development coordinator and the P-20 agriculture education
12 working group will result in an increased:

- 13 (1) Number of students exposed to agriculture education at
14 all levels (P-20) in public, charter, and independent
15 schools;
- 16 (2) Number of public school students entering and
17 completing the career and technical education natural
18 resources career pathway in agriculture;
- 19 (3) Number of student entering and completing higher
20 education programs in agriculture and food systems;
- 21 (4) Number of teachers trained in agriculture education;



1 (5) Number of local farms and farmers; and

2 (6) Local food supply and food security.

3 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish and
4 fund the workforce development coordinator position within the
5 department of agriculture to oversee ongoing communication and
6 collaboration of the P-20 agriculture education working group
7 and to lead the implementation plan for a coordinated framework
8 of support for P-20 agriculture education in Hawaii.

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

12 "§141- Workforce development coordinator. There is
13 established within the department of agriculture the position of
14 coordinator of preschool through post-secondary (P-20)
15 agriculture education to oversee ongoing communication and
16 collaboration of the P-20 agriculture education working group
17 and to lead implementation of the coordinated framework of
18 support for P-20 agriculture education in Hawaii."

19 SECTION 3. The workforce development coordinator and the
20 P-20 agriculture education working group, convened pursuant to
21 Senate Resolution No. 80, regular session of 2015, shall carry



1 out the implementation plan for the coordinated framework of
2 support for P-20 agriculture education in Hawaii as follows:

3 (1) Teacher development: Prioritize teacher training in
4 agriculture and food systems education at all
5 preschool through postsecondary schooling levels,
6 including:

7 (A) Pre-service teachers, or those individuals
8 preparing to become a teacher; and

9 (B) In-service teachers, or those individuals who
10 currently teach in a classroom;

11 (2) Curricular integration: Integrate agriculture
12 education into the core curriculum in all subject
13 areas at all preschool through postsecondary schooling
14 levels;

15 (3) Agriculture educators: Establish and fund positions
16 at the state, community, and school levels that
17 directly support teacher development and curricular
18 integration around agriculture and food systems; and

19 (4) Capacity building: Engage in actions that foster
20 capacity building in support of strengthened and
21 expanded agriculture education in the State by:



- 1 (A) Continuing communication and collaboration of the
- 2 P-20 agriculture education working group and
- 3 subcommittees;
- 4 (B) Planning and conducting ongoing needs assessments
- 5 and progress evaluations;
- 6 (C) Cultivating new partnerships and seeking
- 7 alignment with other relevant initiatives,
- 8 including the department of labor and industrial
- 9 relations agriculture workforce advisory group;
- 10 (D) Identifying and writing proposals for additional
- 11 sources of funding; and
- 12 (E) Overseeing publication of an annual report to the
- 13 legislature.

14 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general

15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much

16 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for a

17 workforce development coordinator position within the department

18 of agriculture to oversee ongoing communication and

19 collaboration of the P-20 agriculture education working group

20 and to lead the implementation plan for a coordinated framework

21 of support for P-20 agriculture education in Hawaii.



H.B. NO. 2215

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

3 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

4 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

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INTRODUCED BY: *[Signature]*

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H.B. NO. 2215

Report Title:

HDOA; Workforce Development Coordinator; P-20 Agriculture Education Working Group; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes within the Department of Agriculture the Workforce Development Coordinator position. Specifies duties of the Coordinator and P-20 Agriculture Education Working Group. Appropriates funds.

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