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



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

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

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



1 implementation", including any proposed legislation, through
2 annual reports to the legislature prior to the 2017, 2018, and
3 2019 legislative sessions.

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

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



- 1 (4) Number of teachers trained in agriculture education;
- 2 (5) Number of local farms and farmers; and
- 3 (6) Local food supply and food security.

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

10 SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
 11 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
 12 and to read as follows:

13 "§302A- Workforce development coordinator. There is
 14 established within the department the position of coordinator of
 15 preschool through post-secondary (P-20) agriculture education to
 16 oversee ongoing communication and collaboration of the P-20
 17 agriculture education working group and to lead implementation
 18 of the coordinated framework of support for P-20 agriculture
 19 education in Hawaii."

20 SECTION 3. The workforce development coordinator and the
 21 P-20 agriculture education working group, convened pursuant to



1 Senate Resolution No. 80, regular session of 2015, shall carry
2 out the implementation plan for the coordinated framework of
3 support for P-20 agriculture education in Hawaii as follows:

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

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

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

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

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



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

17 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general

18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so

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

20 workforce development coordinator position within the department

21 of education to oversee ongoing communication and collaboration



1 of the P-20 agriculture education working group and to lead the
2 implementation plan for a coordinated framework of support for
3 P-20 agriculture education in Hawaii.

4 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
5 education for the purposes of this Act.

6 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

7 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

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

Description:

Establishes a workforce development coordinator position within
the department of education. Specifies the duties of the
coordinator and P-20 agriculture education working group.
Appropriates funds. Takes effect on 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

