
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

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

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 141, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
3 and to read as follows:

4 "§141- Grant program; beginning farmer and rancher
5 start-up costs. (a) There is established in the department of
6 agriculture a grant program to assist beginning farmers and
7 beginning ranchers in meeting the operating costs, including
8 start-up and organization costs, to start their farm or ranch
9 operations.

10 (b) The program shall provide grants to qualified
11 applicants subject to the following terms and conditions:

12 (1) No grant shall be given unless the applicant has a
13 fifty per cent match of funds to start the farm or
14 ranch operation;

15 (2) The total amount of a grant to any one applicant shall
16 not exceed \$15,000;



- 1 (3) The applicant shall be a beginning farmer or beginning
2 rancher;
- 3 (4) The applicant shall have received all applicable
4 business and tax licenses and permits;
- 5 (5) The applicant shall comply with all applicable federal
6 and state laws prohibiting discrimination against any
7 person on the basis of race, color, national origin,
8 religion, creed, sex, age, sexual orientation,
9 disability, or any other characteristic protected
10 under applicable federal or state law;
- 11 (6) The grant shall not be used for the purposes of
12 entertainment; and
- 13 (7) The applicant shall:
 - 14 (A) Comply with other requirements as the department
15 may prescribe, including but not limited to
16 providing tax returns, business licenses,
17 financial records, and tax clearances or
18 compliance certificates and making available to
19 the department all records the applicant may have
20 relating to the grant; and



1 (B) Allow state agencies to monitor the applicant's
2 compliance with any and all grant conditions.

3 (c) The department may adopt interim rules, which shall be
4 exempt from chapter 91 and chapter 201M, to effectuate the
5 purposes of the program; provided that any interim rules shall
6 only remain in effect until July 1, 2022, or until rules are
7 adopted pursuant to chapter 91, whichever occurs sooner.

8 (d) The grant applications shall be reviewed and approved
9 by an administrative staff member of the department.

10 (e) As used in this section:

11 "Beginning farmer" means a new farm enterprise or person
12 who has not farmed commercially or has been farming for less
13 than two years preceding the application by the enterprise or
14 person for a grant under the program.

15 "Beginning rancher" means a new ranch enterprise or person
16 who has not ranched commercially or has been ranching for less
17 than two years preceding the application by the enterprise or
18 person for a grant under the program."

19 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so



1 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for
2 the purposes of this Act.

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

5 SECTION 3. Any provision of this Act to the contrary
6 notwithstanding, the appropriations authorized under this Act
7 shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year for which the
8 appropriation is made. Any balance of the appropriation made in
9 this Act that is unexpended and unencumbered as of the close of
10 business on June 30, 2022, shall lapse as of that date.

11 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

12 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2150.



Report Title:

Beginning Farmer and Rancher Grant Program; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Grant Program under the Department of Agriculture. Allows the Department to make grants to start new commercial farms and ranches. Makes an appropriation. Takes effect on 7/1/2150. (HD1)

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

