
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the human-induced
2 global climate crisis requires thoughtful but bold responses on
3 many fronts to make Hawaii communities resilient to the impacts
4 of climate change that threaten the very survivability of these
5 fragile islands. Lest Hawaii lose its leadership position in
6 meeting the future of labor, justice and equity, the legislature
7 embraces aloha 'aina as a green new deal to decarbonize Hawaii's
8 systems of food, energy, and transportation, and to sequester
9 carbon through systems of agriculture, waste management and
10 ecosystem restoration. This solid foundation finds synergies
11 with expanded access to health, housing and education,
12 multiplying good jobs and ensuring justice and equity for
13 Hawaii's citizens. This measure represents a forward step in
14 mitigating and adapting Hawaii to inevitable change.

15 The legislature finds that the importation of ninety per
16 cent of Hawaii's food supply risks being subject to catastrophe
17 in the event of a breakdown of shipping service or disruption of



1 harvests and processing due to extreme climate events. Hawaii's
2 long supply lines are global, highly dependent on fossil fuels
3 and lengthy shipping times.

4 The legislature further finds that while Hawaii boasts long
5 growing seasons, growing areas representing every known climatic
6 growing zone, and well-known previous capacity to serve not only
7 its own entire population but to grow for export, it remains
8 that numerous obstacles stand in the way of self-sufficiency in
9 basic foodstuffs.

10 The legislature recognizes the determination of local
11 farmers to do more and to do better, and their need for
12 assistance to overcome, among many things, obstacles in
13 marketing infrastructure, expensive soil supplements, invasive
14 species, and pest control.

15 The legislature finds that the market in Hawaii is
16 increasingly dominated by high-end customers, especially hotels,
17 retirees, subsidized military, and more affluent suburbanites,
18 who can support higher prices from the farm, if local food
19 farmers could get their products to market.

20 The legislature finds that among the cost obstacles to more
21 food self-reliance is the complexity of achieving certification



1 as "certified organic", a necessarily strict process that is
2 cost-prohibitive to many family farmers.

3 The legislature finds that overcoming other cost barriers
4 to certification as "certified organic" involves adopting
5 principles of producing and maintaining healthy soil, known as
6 regenerative farming, which reduces the need for costly soil
7 amendment, pesticide use, and other staples of large scale
8 commercial farming not practicable in Hawaii's small scale
9 agriculture, and are in fact disadvantaged by large scale
10 commercial production which can produce economies of scale but
11 do not or cannot follow healthy soil principles.

12 The legislature recognizes that regenerative agriculture
13 promises the additional benefit of a greatly increased ability
14 to sequester greenhouse gases in the soil, a benefit to Hawaii
15 and another gift to the world.

16 SECTION 2. The purpose of this Act is to require the
17 college of tropical agriculture and human resources cooperative
18 extension division to develop a strategic plan for actively
19 promoting and supporting the development of small scale
20 certified organic family farms as a means to create living wage
21 agricultural jobs, increase food resiliency in the face of



1 catastrophic climate change, and to demonstrate the critical
2 role regenerative farming practices play in the effort to
3 reverse global warning.

4 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$100,000 or so much
6 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for costs
7 of developing the strategic plan, including the efforts to
8 develop and grow the capacity to deliver appropriate services to
9 family farmers.

10 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of
11 Hawaii, college of tropical agriculture and human resources
12 cooperative extension for the purposes of this Act.

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

14

INTRODUCED BY:

Alan Sir

JAN 22 2020



H.B. NO. 2395

Report Title:

College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources Cooperative Extension Division; Strategic Plan; Organic Family Farms; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the college of tropical agriculture and human resources cooperative extension division to develop a strategic plan for promoting and supporting the development of small scale certified organic family farms. Appropriates money for organic family farm plan development.

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