

JAN 17 2020

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# 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 ranchers in meeting the operating costs, including start-up and  
8 organization costs, to start their farm or ranch operations.

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

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

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

16           (3) The applicant shall be a beginning farmer or beginning  
17 rancher;



- 1       (4) The applicant shall have received all applicable  
2           business and tax licenses and permits;
- 3       (5) The applicant shall comply with all applicable federal  
4           and state laws prohibiting discrimination against any  
5           person on the basis of race, color, national origin,  
6           religion, creed, sex, age, sexual orientation,  
7           disability, or any other characteristic protected  
8           under applicable federal or state law;
- 9       (6) The grant shall not be used for the purposes of  
10           entertainment; and
- 11       (7) The qualified applicant and grant application shall  
12           comply with other requirements as the department may  
13           prescribe including, but not limited to, providing tax  
14           returns, business licenses, financial records, and tax  
15           clearances or compliance certificates and making  
16           available to the department all records the applicant  
17           may have relating to the grant, and shall allow state  
18           agencies to monitor the applicant's compliance with  
19           any and all grant conditions.
- 20       (c) The department may adopt interim rules, which shall be  
21       exempt from chapter 91 and chapter 201M, to effectuate the



1 purposes of the program; provided that any interim rules shall  
2 only remain in effect until July 1, 2022, or until rules are  
3 adopted pursuant to chapter 91, whichever occurs sooner.

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

6 (e) As used in this section, "beginning farmer" means a  
7 new farm enterprise or person who has not farmed commercially or  
8 has been farming for less than two years preceding the  
9 application by the enterprise or person.

10 (f) As used in this section, "beginning rancher" means a  
11 new ranch enterprise or person who has not ranched commercially  
12 or has been ranching for less than two years preceding the  
13 application by the enterprise or person."

14 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,000,000 or so much  
16 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for the  
17 development and administration of the beginning farmer and  
18 rancher grant program under this Act.

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



# S.B. NO. 2703

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

7 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

8 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

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# S.B. NO. 2703

**Report Title:**

Beginning Farmer and Rancher Grant Program; Appropriation

**Description:**

Creates a grant program and appropriates funding for a program to assist beginning farmers and ranchers to start farm or ranch operations.

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

