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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, of starting a commercial farm or ranch.

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

11 (1) No grant shall be awarded unless the applicant has a  
12 fifty per cent match of funds, at minimum, to start  
13 the commercial farm or ranch;

14 (2) The total amount of a grant awarded to any one  
15 applicant 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:
  - 14       (A) Providing to the department tax returns, business  
15       licenses, financial records, tax clearances or  
16       compliance certificates, and all other requested  
17       records relating to the grant; and
  - 18       (B) Allowing state agencies to monitor the  
19       applicant's compliance with any and all grant  
20       conditions.



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

6       (d) An administrative staff member of the department shall  
7 review and approve all grant applications.

8       (e) As used in this section:

9       "Beginning farmer" means a farm enterprise or person who  
10 has not previously farmed commercially or has been farming  
11 commercially for less than two years preceding the application  
12 by the enterprise or person.

13       "Beginning rancher" means a ranch enterprise or person who  
14 has not previously ranched commercially or has been ranching  
15 commercially for less than two years preceding the application  
16 by the enterprise or person."

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



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

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

9           SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

10          SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Beginning Farmer and Rancher Grant Program; Appropriation

**Description:**

Creates a grant program and appropriates funds for a program to assist beginning farmers or ranchers to start commercial farm or ranch operations. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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

