
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 GoFarm Hawaii
2 program is critical to growing, creating, and commercializing
3 local farms that are capable of meeting Hawaii's food
4 sustainability goals. Currently, approximately eighty-five per
5 cent of the State's food is imported. This leaves the State
6 vulnerable to shipping disruptions and natural disasters. The
7 Hawaii emergency management agency estimates that, in the event
8 of port closures, food supplies would be exhausted in five to
9 seven days.

10 The food import industry also represents billions of
11 dollars each year that are leaving the State's economy. In
12 2014, local consumers spent approximately \$4,100,000,000 on
13 food. Approximately eighty-five per cent, or \$3,500,000,000, of
14 this was spent on imports. In contrast, only twelve per cent of
15 farms in the State make more than \$50,000 annually, and only
16 seven per cent reach more than \$100,000 in annual sales.



1 The GoFarm Hawaii program was developed by the university
2 of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and human resources to
3 assist local farmers in growing and commercializing their
4 production. In 2019, the program provided business consulting,
5 training, and technical assistance to more than three hundred
6 seventy-five existing and aspiring farmers. GoFarm Hawaii also
7 helped more than sixty farmers apply for loans, leases, and
8 grants and to develop business plans and value-added products.

9 GoFarm Hawaii has also established beginning training
10 programs to assist new commercial farmers: two programs on the
11 island of Oahu and one each on the islands of Maui, Kauai, and
12 Hawaii. The certificate-based program includes education and
13 mentoring in agricultural production and business. In the last
14 three years, more than one hundred thirty students have
15 graduated from the beginning farmer training program. Of these,
16 almost fifty per cent started new farm businesses and fourteen
17 per cent found employment with existing operations in the
18 agricultural industry. The courses have been highly successful,
19 and the demand for enrollment often exceeds availability. In
20 2019, seventy-two aspiring farmers applied for twenty-four Oahu-
21 based openings.



1 The legislature finds that funding for the GoFarms Hawaii
 2 program comes exclusively from government and private grants.
 3 To manage the program at existing levels, operating costs for
 4 fiscal year 2021 are estimated at \$1,400,000, with \$400,000 of
 5 that amount anticipated to be received from private grants.

6 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

- 7 (1) Appropriate funds for the GoFarm Hawaii program to
 8 provide business consulting, technical assistance, and
 9 beginner farmer training on at least four islands; and
- 10 (2) Require the GoFarm Hawaii program to provide the
 11 chairperson of the board of agriculture with reports
 12 on the program's annual goals, outputs, and outcomes.

13 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
 14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
 15 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for the
 16 GoFarm Hawaii program to provide business consulting, technical
 17 assistance, and beginning farmer training on at least four
 18 islands.

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



1 SECTION 3. The GoFarm Hawaii program shall provide the
2 chairperson of the board of agriculture with:

3 (1) An annual report no later than of the
4 program's goals for the chairperson's review; and

5 (2) A semi-annual report no later than outlining
6 the program's outputs and outcomes.

7 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

GoFarm Hawaii; Food Sustainability; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for the GoFarm Hawaii program. Requires GoFarm Hawaii to provide the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture with an annual report of the program's goals and a semi-annual report outlining program outputs and outcomes. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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