

JAN 23 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. 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.

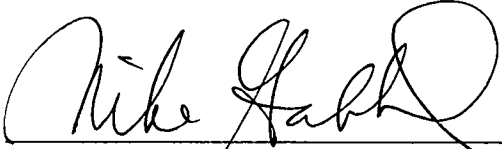

4 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$100,000 or so much  
6 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for costs  
7 of developing the strategic plan, including the efforts to  
8 develop and grow the capacity to deliver appropriate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

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INTRODUCED BY:



# S.B. NO. 2934

**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.

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

