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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FOOD SAFETY.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii is the most  
2 geographically isolated state in the country and imports  
3 approximately ninety-two per cent of its food, according to the  
4 Pacific Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments Program.  
5 Each food product imported to Hawaii is a lost opportunity for  
6 local economic growth. According to the University of Hawaii  
7 college of tropical agriculture and human resources, an increase  
8 in the production and sale of Hawaii-grown food would contribute  
9 to significant job creation. Increasing the amount of locally  
10 grown food by ten per cent could keep hundreds of millions of  
11 dollars circulating within Hawaii's economy, stimulate growth in  
12 agriculture, and create over two thousand new jobs. Such  
13 diversification would help make Hawaii's food supply and economy  
14 more resilient to worldwide events.

15           The federal Food and Drug Administration is implementing  
16 more comprehensive food safety regulations for agriculture under  
17 the 2011 Food Safety and Modernization Act (FSMA). The deadline



1 for FSMA compliance for small farms is January 2019, and for  
2 very small farms the deadline is January 2020. Ninety per cent  
3 of Hawaii's 3,682 farms are small to very small farms, many of  
4 which are adversely affected both by the cost of food safety  
5 certification and the time needed to develop and implement the  
6 requirements. By January 2020, most local retailers and  
7 distributors will only purchase products from safety-certified  
8 farms. To meet existing customer demand, buyers will import  
9 products no longer available from local sources, increasing the  
10 State's dependency on imported food.

11 In Hawaii, small and medium sized farms are key to  
12 increasing the supply of locally grown food. Many farms  
13 currently grow only what can be sold in direct-to-consumer  
14 markets, often leaving much of their land uncultivated.  
15 Compliance with food safety regulations and increasing demand  
16 for locally grown food provides an opportunity for small and  
17 medium size farms to expand production to meet these new market  
18 conditions.

19 The legislature additionally finds that food safety  
20 certification of Hawaii farms, a critical first step toward FSMA  
21 compliance, can lead to increased market access and



1 opportunities to increase production. The United States  
2 Department of Agriculture created the Good Agricultural  
3 Practices (GAP) certification program, the most common  
4 certification standard required by produce buyers. The GAP is a  
5 voluntary program designed to reduce the risk of foodborne  
6 illness originating with produce at the farm level through  
7 implementation of preventative food safety best practices and  
8 record keeping. Hawaii's small to medium farmers require direct  
9 training assistance to successfully implement good agricultural  
10 practices and obtain GAP or an equivalent certification.

11 The preservation of small, diversified farming businesses  
12 adds to, and diversifies Hawaii's economy, helps redress the  
13 imbalance in agricultural trade, and promotes food resiliency.  
14 Reducing the burden on small to medium farmers seeking costly,  
15 but necessary, certifications and inspections will allow many  
16 farms to secure GAP certification or an equivalent before the  
17 January 2020 FSMA compliance deadline and will provide an  
18 ongoing food safety resource of Hawaii.

19 The purpose of this Act is to require the University of  
20 Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and human resources to  
21 partner with the agricultural community to establish a



1 certification focused food safety training program to assist  
2 small to medium sized farms in obtaining food safety  
3 certification.

4 SECTION 2. The University of Hawaii college of tropical  
5 agriculture and human resources shall partner with the  
6 agriculture community of Hawaii to establish a food safety  
7 certification training program that will provide direct  
8 implementation assistance to small and medium sized farms to  
9 obtain a United States Department of Agriculture Good  
10 Agricultural Practice certificate or an equivalent.

11 For purposes of this section "small and medium sized farm"  
12 means a farm that has an annual food sale revenue of \$500,000 or  
13 less.

14 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$150,000 or so much  
16 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the  
17 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
18 2020-2021 for the University of Hawaii college of tropical  
19 agriculture and human resources to implement a food safety  
20 certification training program as provided in section 2 of this  
21 Act.



1           The sums appropriated shall be expended by the University  
2 of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and human resources  
3 for the purposes of this Act.

4           SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.



**Report Title:**

University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources; Food Safety; Certification Training Program; Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires the University of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and human resources to partner with the agriculture community to establish a food safety certification training program to provide assistance to small and medium sized farms to obtain a United States Department of Agriculture Good Agricultural Practices certificate or an equivalent. Appropriates funds. (SD1)

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

