

JAN 18 2019

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE
HONALO MARSHALLING YARD.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Honalo
2 marshalling yard was built twenty-five years ago; is situated in
3 Kona, Hawaii; and was not utilized to its full potential until
4 the Hawaii 'Ulu Cooperative began its operations at the facility
5 in 2017. The cooperative has grown to sixty-five local farm
6 members, serving public schools, hospitals, hotels, and
7 restaurants statewide. However, the facility's existing
8 equipment and infrastructure do not support the projected ulu
9 and other co-crops production of ten thousand pounds per day, or
10 two million pounds per year.

11 Cooperatives are needed to help achieve the State's
12 ambitious goals for expanded local food production and
13 agricultural development because Hawaii's farming community is
14 dominated by small-scale operators (about ninety-five per cent
15 of farmers generate less than \$250,000 per year) who must work
16 together to realize economies of scale and meet local food



1 demand with export market potential. Only by pooling resources
2 and leveraging collective capabilities will the State meet its
3 goals, such as the Aloha+ Challenge. While farmers continue to
4 improve the State's self-sufficiency of certain food groups like
5 fruit and beef, in the whole grain or starch category, the State
6 remains virtually solely dependent on imports like rice, wheat,
7 and potatoes. Ulu has unique potential to help reverse this
8 scenario; it is among the most sustainable staple foods globally
9 because it grows on a perennial tree, thereby eliminating the
10 need for annual tilling and replanting and providing other
11 ecosystem services like carbon sequestration and soil and water
12 retention. Moreover, ulu is a prolific producer with average
13 yields of three hundred pounds per tree per year and requires
14 far less inputs of fertilizer and pesticides than comparable
15 staple crops. In addition, it is a culturally appropriate food
16 and played an important role in Hawaii's food sovereignty in the
17 past. It is also highly nutritious, gluten free, low glycemic,
18 and high protein, making it increasingly compelling in the
19 national and international food market with potential as a high-
20 value density export crop after processing.



S.B. NO. 750

1 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to
 2 accommodate the increased production of ulu and other co-crops
 3 processed at the Honalo marshalling yard.

4 SECTION 2. The following sums, or so much thereof as shall
 5 be sufficient to finance the projects listed in this Act, are
 6 hereby appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of
 7 Hawaii for fiscal year 2019-2020:

- 8 1. Honalo Marshalling Yard, Hawaii
- 9 Plans, design, and equipment and appurtenances.
- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| 10 Plans | \$25,000 |
| 11 Design | \$50,000 |
| 12 Equipment | \$1,025,000 |
| 13 Total funding | \$1,100,000 |

14 The sum appropriated for this capital improvement project
 15 shall be expended by the department of agriculture for the
 16 purposes of this Act.

17 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

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INTRODUCED BY:

Mike Gabbard
SP Rivers
Prosser E. Pelt



S.B. NO. 750

For Blank
~~Secretary~~
M.H.



S.B. NO. 750

Report Title:

Capital Improvement Project; Honalo Marshalling Yard

Description:

Appropriates funds for a capital improvement project for the Honalo marshalling yard.

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