
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE EDUCATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the average age of
2 farmers in Hawaii is over sixty years, and Hawaii does not have
3 an adequate-sized farming workforce for expansion of cultivated
4 agricultural lands and food production. A primary cause of the
5 shortage of new farmers in Hawaii during the past several
6 decades is the decline of support for agriculture education from
7 state government, including training for agriculture teachers,
8 resulting in an insufficient interest in pursuing the fields of
9 agriculture and natural resource management among youth.
10 Prospective farmers face challenges in terms of access to land,
11 and farming today requires a more diverse skill set than in the
12 past, including crop and livestock production, marketing, food
13 safety, regulatory compliance, environmental stewardship,
14 business skills, and more. Whereas ancestral Hawaiians were
15 completely self-sufficient, today Hawaii imports approximately
16 eighty-five to ninety per cent of our food, and the health of
17 Hawaii's people, aina, and food systems is suffering.



1 In order to meet the State's aspirations for increased food
2 security and self-sufficiency, the number of local farms and
3 farmers and the amount of food produced for local markets will
4 need to increase significantly. Agriculture education is key to
5 the development of future farmers and to a society that values
6 and understands the vital role of agriculture, food, fiber, and
7 natural resource systems in advancing personal, local, and
8 global well-being. During the past decade, a vibrant grassroots
9 movement in support of agriculture education has emerged in
10 Hawaii, along with a marked increase in new farmer training
11 programs and student involvement in Future Farmers of America.

12 To encourage this momentum, the Hawaii State Senate adopted
13 S.R. No. 80, Regular Session of 2015, that requested the
14 University of Hawaii at Manoa college of tropical agriculture
15 and human resources to "convene a working group to develop a
16 coordinated framework of support for preschool through post-
17 secondary agriculture education and a plan for implementation",
18 including any proposed legislation, through annual reports to
19 the legislature prior to the 2017, 2018, and 2019 legislative
20 sessions.



1 For three years, the University of Hawaii at Manoa college
2 of tropical agriculture and human resources has convened the
3 P-20 agriculture education working group, which includes
4 governmental and non-governmental stakeholders. The group's
5 final report to the legislature outlined a coordinated framework
6 of support for preschool through post-secondary agriculture
7 education in the State and asserts that implementation of the
8 framework will require that a P-20 agriculture education
9 coordinator position be established within the University of
10 Hawaii at Manoa college of tropical agriculture and human
11 resources and funded for the purposes of overseeing ongoing
12 communication and collaboration of the P-20 agriculture
13 education working group and spearheading the implementation
14 plan.

15 The legislature finds that effectuation of the coordinated
16 framework of support for preschool through post-secondary
17 agriculture education in the State by the P-20 agriculture
18 education coordinator and working group will result in the
19 following desired outcomes:

20 (1) Increased number of students exposed to agriculture
21 education at all levels (preschool through post-



1 secondary) in public, charter, and independent
2 schools;

3 (2) Increased number of public school students entering
4 and completing the career and technical education
5 natural resources career pathway in agriculture;

6 (3) Increased number of students entering and completing
7 higher education programs in agriculture and food
8 systems;

9 (4) Increased number of teachers trained in agriculture
10 education;

11 (5) Increased number of local farms and farmers; and
12 (6) Increased local food supply and food security.

13 The purpose of this Act is to establish and fund the P-20
14 agriculture education coordinator position within the University
15 of Hawaii at Manoa college of tropical agriculture and human
16 resources to oversee ongoing communication and collaboration of
17 the P-20 agriculture education working group and to lead the
18 implementation plan for a coordinated framework of support for
19 preschool through post-secondary agriculture education in the
20 State.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 304A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
3 and to read as follows:

4 "§304A- P-20 agriculture education coordinator. There
5 is established within the University of Hawaii at Manoa college
6 of tropical agriculture and human resources the position of
7 coordinator of preschool through post-secondary agriculture
8 education, to be known as the P-20 agriculture education
9 coordinator. The coordinator shall oversee ongoing
10 communication and collaboration of the P-20 agriculture
11 education working group and lead implementation of the
12 coordinated framework of support for preschool through post-
13 secondary agriculture education in the State."

14 SECTION 3. The P-20 agriculture education coordinator and
15 working group shall carry out the implementation plan for the
16 coordinated framework of support for preschool through post-
17 secondary agriculture education in the State pursuant to section
18 304A- , Hawaii Revised Statutes, as follows:

19 (1) Teacher development: Prioritize teacher training in
20 agriculture and food systems education at all levels
21 (preschool through post-secondary) for those preparing



- 1 to become teachers, as well as additional professional
2 development for those already in classrooms;
- 3 (2) Curricular integration: Integrate agriculture
4 education into the core curriculum in all subject
5 areas at all levels (preschool through post-
6 secondary);
- 7 (3) Agriculture educators: Establish and fund positions
8 at the state, community, and school levels that
9 directly support teacher development and curricular
10 integration around agriculture and food systems; and
- 11 (4) Capacity building:
- 12 (A) Continue communication and collaboration of the
13 P-20 agriculture education working group and its
14 subcommittees;
- 15 (B) Plan and conduct ongoing needs assessments and
16 progress evaluations;
- 17 (C) Cultivate new partnerships and seek alignment
18 with other relevant initiatives, including the
19 department of labor and industrial relations
20 agriculture workforce advisory group;



- 1 (D) Identify and write proposals for additional
- 2 sources of funding; and
- 3 (E) Submit a report of findings and recommendations,
- 4 including any proposed legislation, to the
- 5 legislature no later than twenty days prior to
- 6 the convening of each regular session.

7 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
 8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
 9 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the
 10 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
 11 2020-2021 for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) P-20
 12 agriculture education coordinator position within the University
 13 of Hawaii at Manoa college of tropical agriculture and human
 14 resources to oversee ongoing communication and collaboration of
 15 the P-20 agriculture education working group and to lead the
 16 implementation plan for a coordinated framework of support for
 17 preschool through post-secondary agriculture education in
 18 Hawaii.

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



- 1 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.
- 2 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2052.



Report Title:

UH; P-20 Agriculture Education Coordinator; Working Group;
Implementation Plan; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes and appropriates funds for 1 FTE P-20 agriculture education coordinator position within the University of Hawaii at Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. Specifies duties of the coordinator and P-20 agriculture education working group. (SB762 HD1)

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