
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO A FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State's food
2 security may be strengthened by growing more food locally and
3 increasing access to local food. This endeavor may be supported
4 by establishing food hubs, which are centrally located
5 facilities having a business management structure that
6 facilitates aggregation, storage, processing, distribution, and
7 marketing of locally produced food products. By actively
8 coordinating these activities along the value chain, food hubs
9 may provide wider access to institutional and retail markets for
10 small- to mid-sized producers and increase consumer access to
11 fresh healthy food, including those consumers in underserved
12 areas and food deserts.

13 The legislature also finds that food hubs encounter
14 financial obstacles when seeking to launch or expand their
15 operations. Therefore, a funding source is needed to support
16 the establishment and growth of food hubs on a scale that meets
17 demand by state institutions such as schools, hospitals, and
18 correctional facilities.



1 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish a
2 five-year food hub pilot program under the department of
3 agriculture and appropriate funds for the program.

4 SECTION 2. (a) There is established a five-year food hub
5 pilot program, which shall be administered by the department of
6 agriculture.

7 (b) The food hub pilot program shall:

8 (1) Adopt the United States Department of Agriculture's
9 working definition of "food hub", which means "a
10 centrally located facility with a business management
11 structure facilitating the aggregation, storage,
12 processing, distribution, and/or marketing of
13 locally/regionally produced food products"; and

14 (2) Award grant funding to qualified applicants for the
15 construction of critical infrastructure to establish
16 and expand food hubs in each of the counties,
17 including:

18 (A) Construction or improvement of facilities for
19 aggregation, washing, minimal processing,
20 packaging, cold storage, and other
21 value-additions; and



1 (B) Provision of technical assistance to develop
2 in-state capacity to supply state institutions
3 and other markets.

4 (c) The department of agriculture shall establish criteria
5 for the award of initial start-up grant funding or subsequent
6 expansion funding under the food hub pilot program, including
7 the following provisions:

8 (1) Priority shall be given to organizations having
9 demonstrated experience in aggregation, washing,
10 minimal processing, packaging, cold storage, and other
11 value-additions for delivering local produce to local
12 markets;

13 (2) Qualifying applicants shall include corporations,
14 limited liability companies, partnerships, sole
15 proprietorships, non-profit organizations, and
16 agricultural cooperatives that meet necessary
17 insurance requirements and provide a certificate of
18 vendor compliance with Hawaii compliance express;

19 (3) Applicants seeking to establish a new food hub where
20 none currently exist shall first secure a physical
21 location for the food hub and draft a detailed plan



1 for the food hub's operation, including activities in
2 which the applicant intends to engage, such as serving
3 as a marketplace for buying and selling, or providing
4 certified kitchen space in which multiple farmers may
5 share use of facilities for value-added product
6 development; and

7 (4) Applicants shall explain their intended actions to
8 increase access to locally produced food.

9 (d) The department of agriculture shall require that the
10 receipt of grant funding pursuant to the food hub pilot program
11 be conditioned upon the recipient's compliance with all
12 applicable state and federal food safety laws, rules, and
13 regulations, including the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act,
14 P.L. 111-353, and that Act's provisions on supplier
15 verification.

16 (e) The department of agriculture shall adopt rules
17 pursuant to chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for the
18 administration and operation of the food hub pilot program.

19 (f) The food hub pilot program under this section shall
20 terminate on June 30, 2027.



1 SECTION 3. (a) The department of agriculture shall submit
2 interim reports on:

- 3 (1) The department's progress in implementing this Act;
4 (2) Preliminary results of the food hub pilot program; and
5 (3) The department's findings and recommendations,
6 including any proposed legislation,
7 to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the
8 convening of the regular sessions of 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026.

9 (b) The department of agriculture shall submit a final
10 report of its findings and recommendations, including any
11 proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty
12 days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2027. The
13 report shall include the results of the food hub pilot program
14 and a recommendation as to whether the program should be made
15 permanent, with or without modifications.

16 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,500,000 or so much
18 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the
19 establishment of a five-year food hub pilot program, including
20 the awarding of grant moneys to qualifying food hubs.



1 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
2 agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

3 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.



Report Title:

Department of Agriculture; Food Hub Pilot Program; Grant
Funding; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a five-year food hub pilot program to increase access to local food. Provides for the award of grant funding to qualified applicants wishing to establish or expand a food hub or provide certain technical assistance. Requires reports to the Legislature. Appropriates funds. (CD2)

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