

JAN 26 2022

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

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MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
FOR AN AGRICULTURE INNOVATION CENTER.

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

1       SECTION 1. This Act is recommended by the governor for  
2 immediate passage in accordance with section 9 of article VII of  
3 the Constitution of the State of Hawaii.

4       SECTION 2. The legislature finds that increasing the  
5 consumption of local food and promoting healthy eating habits  
6 particularly among children is vital to having healthy families  
7 and healthy communities. In 2015, the legislature passed Act  
8 218 which created a farm to school program because farm to  
9 school activities have shown to support nutritious school food  
10 environments and establish healthy behaviors at an early age.  
11 Moreover, in 2021 the legislature passed Act 175 establishing a  
12 goal that at least thirty per cent of food served in public  
13 schools be locally sourced by 2030.

14       The legislature further finds that to increase the amount  
15 of locally grown food served in public schools it is vital to  
16 have the proper facilities to grow food locally and to teach  
17 students about agriculture. In addition to growing food,

1 students must also have the opportunity to learn about all  
2 aspects of agriculture to be able to have viable careers in  
3 agriculture and to continue promoting the growth and consumption  
4 of locally grown foods.

5 The legislature further finds that there is a proposal to  
6 build a state-of-the-art agriculture innovation center on Kauai.  
7 The proposed facility has the potential to provide agricultural  
8 opportunities for students on Kauai, statewide, nationally, and  
9 internationally. Beyond growing food, students would be taught  
10 development of value-added products; finance; soil research;  
11 science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) research; and  
12 aquaculture. This agriculture innovation center could become a  
13 thriving hub for STEM curriculum and career opportunities for  
14 all of Hawaii's youth.

15 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for fiscal  
16 year 2021-2022 to build an agriculture innovation center to  
17 conduct an agricultural program.

18 SECTION 3. The director of finance is authorized to issue  
19 general obligation bonds in the sum of \$6,000,000 or so much  
20 thereof as may be necessary and the same sum or so much thereof  
21 as may be necessary is appropriated for fiscal year 2021-2022  
22 for the purpose of building an agriculture innovation center for  
23 the department of education.

1       The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
2 education.

3       SECTION 4. The appropriation made for the capital  
4 improvement project authorized by this Act shall not lapse at  
5 the end of the fiscal biennium for which the appropriation is  
6 made; provided that all moneys from the appropriation  
7 unencumbered as of June 30, 2024, shall lapse as of that date.

8       SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

INTRODUCED BY:   
BY REQUEST

**Report Title:**

Department of Education; Agriculture; Innovation

**Description:**

Provides an emergency appropriation for the department of education to build an agriculture innovation center.

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

JUSTIFICATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Education

TITLE: A BILL FOR AN ACT MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR AN AGRICULTURE INNOVATION CENTER.

PURPOSE: Provide general obligation bonds to build an agriculture innovation center.

MEANS: Provides general obligation bonds to the Department of Education.

JUSTIFICATION: In 2015, the legislature passed Act 218 that created a farm to school program as farm to school activities have been shown to support nutritious school food environments and establish healthy behaviors at an early age. Further, in 2021 the legislature passed Act 175 setting a goal that at least thirty per cent of food served in public schools be locally sourced by 2030.

As such, the Department of Education recognizes the importance of having agricultural programs available to students to promote the consumption of local food and healthy eating habits. Additionally, it is important to teach students about agriculture and the potential careers that are part of the agricultural industry.

Facilities are needed to meet this need. On Kauai, a site has been identified for a state-of-the-art agriculture innovation center. The facility that is proposed to be built has the potential to provide agricultural opportunities for students on Kauai, statewide, nationally, and internationally. Beyond growing food, students would be taught development of

value-added products; finance; soil research; science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) research; and aquaculture. This agriculture innovation center could become a thriving hub for STEM curriculum and career opportunities for all of Hawaii's youth.

Impact on the public: The facility being proposed may provide statewide agricultural opportunities. This would lead to greater awareness of local agricultural issues, greater consumption of local foods, and greater interest in agriculture careers.

Impact on the department and other agencies: The Department of Agriculture would also need to be consulted to ensure the facility was built to meet the needs of providing state-of-the-art agricultural programs and opportunities.

GENERAL FUND:	None.
OTHER FUNDS:	\$6,000,000 in general obligation bonds.
PPBS PROGRAM DESIGNATION:	EDN 400
OTHER AFFECTED AGENCIES:	None.
EFFECTIVE DATE:	Upon approval.