

JAN 26 2022

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii is located
2 approximately 2,506 miles from the continental United States.
3 About eighty-five to ninety per cent of Hawaii's food is
4 imported, which makes Hawaii particularly vulnerable to natural
5 disasters and global events that disrupt shipping and other
6 modes of transporting food. Increasing the availability of
7 locally produced food would offer greater food security for the
8 State.

9 The legislature further finds that the development of a
10 whole farm system approach to agriculture in Hawaii that pays
11 close attention to soil health, specifically increasing mineral
12 availability and improving soil structure, water-holding
13 capacity, crop health, and food nutrition levels, will lower
14 water usage through deployment of green manure, compost, and
15 cover crops; reduce crop loss from pest damage; and decrease
16 weed pressure. This whole farm system approach to agriculture
17 can improve food security and benefit the local economy by



1 reducing production costs through the promotion of locally
2 sourced inputs and the manufacturing thereof. Teaching a new
3 generation of farmers to use this whole farm system approach
4 will create an alternative method of farming that appeals to
5 many young farmers across the State. Currently, there is a
6 shortage of qualified teachers for these farm methods. Farmer
7 apprentice mentoring aims to fulfill this need by bringing the
8 students to the farm and providing qualified farm mentors with
9 funding for training efforts.

10 The purpose of this Act is to improve food security and
11 self-sufficiency in the State by encouraging the development and
12 implementation of a whole farm system approach to agriculture in
13 Hawaii.

14 SECTION 2. Chapter 141, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
15 amended by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately
16 designated and to read as follows:

17 "§141- Farmer apprentice mentoring program. (a) There
18 is established in the department of agriculture a farmer
19 apprentice mentoring program that shall teach farmers about
20 methods to improve soil health by using whole farm systems that:



1 (1) Practice sustainable agriculture as defined by the
2 Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of
3 1990, Public Law 101-624, title XVI, subtitle A,
4 section 1603 (codified as 7 United States Code section
5 3103); and

6 (2) Recycle locally available organic, diverse plant and
7 animal agricultural nutrients, enhanced by
8 fermentation and other ecological processes such as
9 Korean natural farming as defined by the University of
10 Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and human
11 resources.

12 (b) The chairperson of the board of agriculture shall
13 establish the curriculum for the farmer apprentice mentoring
14 program."

15 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,000,000 or so much
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the
18 farmer apprentice mentoring program to provide mentoring on a
19 whole farm system approach to agriculture.

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



1 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

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

3

INTRODUCED BY:





S.B. NO. 3197

Report Title:

Farmer Apprentice Mentoring Program; Whole Farm System;
Appropriation

Description:

Establishes a Farmer Apprentice Mentoring Program to teach and train farmers to utilize a whole farm system approach to agriculture. Makes an appropriation to the Department of Agriculture to provide mentoring on a whole farm system approach to agriculture.

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

