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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that a sustainable food  
2 system is one in which producers, retailers, members of the  
3 community, non-governmental organizations, and government  
4 agencies partner to create a vibrant and resilient local food  
5 economy that enhances and sustains the environmental, economic,  
6 and social health of the community.

7           The legislature further finds that developing a more  
8 sustainable food system for Hawaii represents an opportunity to  
9 create a new food economy that integrates the objectives of  
10 "green" job creation, sustainable economic development, land  
11 stewardship, food security, environmental protection, and  
12 climate change resiliency with community health and well-being.

13           Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to establish within  
14 the department of agriculture the sustainable food systems  
15 working group to develop an interagency food systems plan.

16           SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the department  
17 of agriculture the sustainable food systems working group. The



1 working group shall identify a governance structure and  
2 implementation plan for an interagency food systems plan linked  
3 to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals for a more  
4 sustainable, resilient local food economy that enhances and  
5 sustains the environmental, economic, and social health of the  
6 community.

7 (b) The sustainable food systems working group shall be  
8 composed of the following members:

- 9 (1) One member of the house of representatives, to be  
10 selected by the speaker of the house of  
11 representatives;
- 12 (2) One member of the senate, to be selected by the  
13 president of the senate;
- 14 (3) A representative of the Hawaii tourism authority, to  
15 be selected by the president and chief executive  
16 officer of the Hawaii tourism authority;
- 17 (4) Two representatives of the University of Hawaii system  
18 who have experience in food systems, to be selected by  
19 the chairperson of the board of agriculture;



- 1           (5) A representative of the department of agriculture, to  
2           be selected by the chairperson of the board of  
3           agriculture;
- 4           (6) A representative of the office of Hawaiian affairs, to  
5           be selected by the chairperson of the board of  
6           trustees of the office of Hawaiian affairs;
- 7           (7) A representative of the office of climate change,  
8           sustainability and resiliency of the city and county  
9           of Honolulu, to be selected by the chief resilience  
10          officer and executive director of the office of  
11          climate change, sustainability and resiliency of the  
12          city and county of Honolulu;
- 13          (8) The food access coordinators of the city and county of  
14          Honolulu and the counties of Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai;
- 15          (9) A representative of the department of Native Hawaiian  
16          health of the John A. Burns school of medicine of the  
17          University of Hawaii, to be selected by the chair of  
18          the department of Native Hawaiian health;
- 19          (10) Two persons with familiarity, experience, or expertise  
20          in the Native Hawaiian community, to be selected by  
21          the chairperson of the board of agriculture; provided



- 1           that one of the members shall be a resident of a  
2           county other than the city and county of Honolulu;
- 3       (11) A representative of the Hawaii Farm Bureau, to be  
4           selected by the executive director of the Hawaii Farm  
5           Bureau;
- 6       (12) A representative of the Hawaii Foodbank, to be  
7           selected by the president and chief executive officer  
8           of the Hawaii Foodbank;
- 9       (13) A representative of the agricultural sector, to be  
10          selected by the chairperson of the board of  
11          agriculture;
- 12       (14) Four farmers, with each farmer representing one of the  
13          counties of Hawaii, Kauai, or Maui, or the city and  
14          county of Honolulu, to be selected by the chairperson  
15          of the board of agriculture;
- 16       (15) Four representatives of the agricultural sector, of  
17          which each member shall represent one of the counties  
18          of Hawaii, Kauai, Maui, or the city and county of  
19          Honolulu, to be selected by the respective mayor of  
20          each county;



- 1 (16) A representative of the farm-to-school community in  
2 Hawaii, to be selected by the chairperson of the board  
3 of agriculture;
- 4 (17) A representative of the Hawaii Foodservice Alliance,  
5 to be selected by the owner of the Hawaii Foodservice  
6 Alliance;
- 7 (18) A representative of the Hawaii Food Industry  
8 Association, to be selected by the executive director  
9 of the Hawaii Food Industry Association;
- 10 (19) A representative of the Hawaii Farmers Union United;
- 11 (20) A representative of the Hawaii Fishermen's Alliance  
12 for Conservation and Tradition, to be selected by the  
13 president of the Hawaii Fishermen's Alliance for  
14 Conservation and Tradition; and
- 15 (21) A representative of the commercial fishing sector of  
16 the State, to be selected by the administrator of the  
17 department of land and natural resources division of  
18 aquatic resources.
- 19 (c) The chairperson of the board of agriculture shall  
20 serve as chair of the sustainable food systems working group.
- 21 (d) The interagency food systems plan shall:



- 1 (1) Address the following:
- 2 (A) Food as a human right and healthy food for all;
- 3 (B) Social equity and food justice;
- 4 (C) Food system resilience;
- 5 (D) Agriculture and food system sustainability;
- 6 (E) Food at the center of a circular economy;
- 7 (F) Sustainable education, workforce development, and
- 8 fair labor; and
- 9 (G) Good food governance; and
- 10 (2) Incorporate the county food access plans.
- 11 (e) The sustainable food systems working group shall
- 12 submit its plan and any recommendations for implementation of
- 13 the plan, including any proposed legislation, to the legislature
- 14 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular
- 15 session of 2025.
- 16 (f) The department of agriculture shall provide any
- 17 necessary staff support, including for the preparation of the
- 18 plan identified in subsection (a), to the sustainable food
- 19 systems working group.
- 20 (g) The sustainable food systems working group shall be
- 21 dissolved on June 30, 2025.



1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
3 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and  
4 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
5 year 2024-2025 for the purpose of establishing the sustainable  
6 food systems working group and implementing section 2 of this  
7 Act, including coordinating stakeholder meetings; managing  
8 public meetings and website data management in accordance with  
9 chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statutes; writing and printing the  
10 plan; and potentially obtaining services on a fee.

11 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
12 of agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

13 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
15 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and  
16 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
17 year 2024-2025 for full-time equivalent ( FTE)  
18 sustainability specialist position in the department of  
19 agriculture.

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



1 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on June 30, 3000.

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**Report Title:**

Sustainable Food Systems Working Group; Department of  
Agriculture; Plan; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes the sustainable food systems working group within the department of agriculture. Requires the working group to submit a plan, any recommendations for implementing the plan, and any proposed legislation to the legislature. Appropriates funds to establish the working group and develop the plan and for an unspecified number of sustainability specialist positions to be employed by the department of agriculture. Effective 6/30/3000. (HD1)

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

