
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 local agriculture is
2 essential to Hawaii. Eighty-five per cent of all food consumed
3 in the State is imported, leaving Hawaii vulnerable to natural
4 disasters and supply chain disruptions. Increasing the amount
5 of food produced locally is key to reducing the need for
6 imported foods.

7 The legislature further finds that if left dependent on
8 imports, Hawaii residents will experience greater volatility in
9 the price and availability of food because of the impact of
10 climate change on national and global food production. It can
11 no longer be assumed that there will always be an unlimited
12 supply of affordable food from overseas to feed Hawaii's
13 population.

14 The legislature recognizes, however, that high costs in the
15 State limit the competitiveness of local agriculture and have
16 undermined efforts to expand local food production. Direct
17 support for local agricultural producers can help overcome the



1 high costs faced by Hawaii's agricultural sector. The creation
2 of an agricultural investment program will allow the department
3 of agriculture to invest in agricultural producers to support
4 the State's economy and alleviate financial strains on the local
5 agricultural sector.

6 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish the
7 Hawaii agricultural investment program to provide a dedicated
8 funding source for the local agricultural sector.

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

12 "§141- Hawaii agricultural investment program. (a)
13 There is established within the department of agriculture the
14 Hawaii agricultural investment program.

15 (b) Subject to legislative appropriation, moneys in the
16 Hawaii agricultural investment program shall be awarded as
17 matching grants to:

18 (1) Acquire or improve real property, irrigation systems,
19 and transportation networks to promote agricultural
20 production or processing activities;



- 1 (2) Purchase or improve equipment and technology for
2 agricultural production or processing activities;
- 3 (3) Promote workforce development and labor solutions for
4 agricultural production and processing;
- 5 (4) Conduct research on and testing of agricultural
6 products and markets;
- 7 (5) Promote and market agricultural products grown or
8 raised in the State;
- 9 (6) Promote food safety training and education to promote
10 agricultural production and market development; and
- 11 (7) Perform any other immediate response activities
12 intended to support agricultural production or
13 processing that will lead to the reduced import of
14 food, fodder, or feed from outside the State.
- 15 (c) The following standards shall apply to all grants
16 awarded through the Hawaii agricultural investment program:
- 17 (1) Any grant shall be used exclusively for the purposes
18 of the program;
- 19 (2) The applicant shall indicate capability to properly
20 use the grant to promote agricultural production;



- 1 (3) Every \$3 of a grant awarded through the program and
2 paid from state funds shall be matched by \$1 paid from
3 federal, private, or other sources;
- 4 (4) The grantee shall comply with all applicable federal
5 and state laws prohibiting discrimination against any
6 person on the basis of race, color, national origin,
7 religion, creed, sex, age, sexual orientation,
8 disability, or any other characteristic protected
9 under applicable federal or state law;
- 10 (5) The grant shall not be used for purposes of
11 entertainment or perquisites;
- 12 (6) The grantee shall comply with other requirements as
13 the department may prescribe;
- 14 (7) All activities undertaken with grant funds received
15 shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and
16 county statutes and ordinances;
- 17 (8) The grantee shall:
- 18 (A) Indemnify and hold harmless the State of Hawaii
19 and its officers, agents, and employees from and
20 against any and all claims arising out of or
21 resulting from activities carried out or projects



1 undertaken with funds received from the program;

2 and

3 (B) Obtain sufficient insurance to provide the

4 indemnification under subparagraph (A), if

5 requested to do so by the department of

6 agriculture; and

7 (9) The grantee shall agree to make available to the

8 department of agriculture all records the grantee may

9 have relating to the grant to monitor the grantee's

10 compliance with the requirements of the program.

11 (d) The department of agriculture shall submit a report to

12 the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening

13 of each regular session on the status and progress of existing

14 programs and activities and the status of new programs and

15 activities funded under the Hawaii agricultural investment

16 program. The report shall also include:

17 (1) An accounting of all moneys expended by the Hawaii

18 agricultural investment program;

19 (2) Descriptions of the markets targeted for expenditures,

20 including the reasons for selecting those markets;



1 (3) A discussion of the persons who will be served by the
2 expenditures; and

3 (4) The specific objectives of the expenditures, including
4 measurable outcomes."

5 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
7 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and
8 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
9 year 2024-2025 for the department of agriculture to establish
10 the Hawaii agricultural investment program to support local
11 agricultural producers.

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

14 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
16 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and the
17 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
18 2024-2025 for the establishment of two full-time equivalent (2.0
19 FTE) positions within the Hawaii agricultural investment program
20 to manage the procurement process to award grants, generate and



1 administer contracts, and manage the accounting oversight
2 resulting from the awarding of grants.

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

5 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

6 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on June 30, 3000.



Report Title:

Hawaii Agricultural Investment Program; DOA; Reports;
Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the Hawaii Agricultural Investment Program within the Department of Agriculture to support local agricultural producers. Requires annual reports. Appropriates funds for program and positions. Effective 6/30/3000. (SD1)

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

