
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE EDUCATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the average age of
2 farmers in Hawaii is sixty years and the State does not have a
3 farming workforce large enough for expansion of cultivated
4 agricultural lands and food production. A primary cause of the
5 shortage of new farmers in Hawaii during the past several
6 decades has been the decline in support for agriculture
7 education from state government, including training for
8 agriculture teachers. The lack of support for agriculture
9 education has resulted in an insufficient interest among youth
10 in pursuing the fields of agriculture and natural resource
11 management.

12 The legislature further finds that to meet the State's
13 aspirations for increased food security and self-sufficiency,
14 the number of local farms and farmers and the amount of food
15 produced for local markets will need to increase significantly.
16 Agriculture education is key to the development of future
17 farmers and to a society that values and understands the vital



1 role of agriculture, food, fiber, and natural resources systems
2 in advancing personal, local, and global well-being. During the
3 past decade, a vibrant grassroots movement in support of
4 agriculture education has emerged in Hawaii, along with a marked
5 increase in new farmer training programs and student involvement
6 in FFA, formerly known as Future Farmers of America.

7 The legislature further finds that to encourage continued
8 momentum for agriculture education, the senate passed Senate
9 Resolution No. 80, Regular Session of 2015, which requested the
10 University of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and human
11 resources to convene a working group to develop a coordinated
12 framework of support for preschool through post-secondary
13 agriculture education and a plan for implementation, including
14 any proposed legislation, through annual reports to the
15 legislature prior to the regular sessions of 2017, 2018, and
16 2019.

17 The legislature further finds that for three years, the
18 University of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and human
19 resources convened the agriculture education working group,
20 which included governmental and non-governmental stakeholders.
21 The group's final report in 2019 to the legislature outlined a



1 coordinated framework of support for agriculture education in
2 Hawaii and recommended that a coordinator position be
3 established. The legislature finds that effectuation of the
4 coordinated framework of support for agriculture education in
5 Hawaii by the agriculture education coordinator and the
6 agriculture education working group will result in an increased
7 number of:

- 8 (1) Students exposed to agriculture education at all grade
9 levels in public, charter, and independent schools;
- 10 (2) Public school students entering and completing the
11 career and technical education agriculture, food
12 innovation, and natural resources career pathway;
- 13 (3) Students entering and completing higher education
14 programs, apprenticeships, internships, and work-based
15 learning programs in agriculture and food systems;
- 16 (4) Teachers trained in agriculture and food systems
17 education; and
- 18 (5) Local food producers and other food systems
19 professionals.

20 The coordinated framework of support will also lead to a
21 decrease in the average age of farmers in the State and an



1 expansion of an educated agricultural workforce, thereby
2 increasing food security, food self-sufficiency, sustainability,
3 and resiliency for Hawaii.

4 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to support a
5 coordinated framework for agriculture education by appropriating
6 funds for a full-time agriculture education coordinator position
7 at the college of tropical agriculture and human resources at
8 the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

9 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$300,000 or so much
11 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and the
12 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
13 2024-2025 for the college of tropical of agriculture and human
14 resources at the University of Hawaii at Manoa to establish one
15 full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) agriculture education coordinator
16 position.

17 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the University
18 of Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

19 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

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H.B. NO. 310

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INTRODUCED BY:

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JAN 19 2023



H.B. NO. 310

Report Title:

University of Hawaii; College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources; Agriculture Education Coordinator; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii for the college of tropical agriculture and human resources to establish an agriculture education coordinator position.

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