

JAN 17 2024

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# 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 establishing a  
2 permanent educational support associate position placed within  
3 the university of Hawai'i college of tropical agriculture and  
4 human resources (CTAHR) is needed to successfully implement the  
5 following goals of the college's cooperative extension program:  
6           (1) Providing non-formal science-based education;  
7           (2) Acting as the outreach component of the university of  
8           Hawai'i college of tropical agriculture and human  
9           resources; and  
10          (3) Extending practical applications of science to support  
11          local food systems, healthy living, youth development,  
12          and the stewardship of natural resources for future  
13          generations.

14          The legislature further finds that CTAHR's Kona cooperative  
15 extension, which houses the Kona research station, provides  
16 crucial support for local coffee farmers statewide, who  
17 currently face dire threats to their crops from the recently



1 discovered coffee berry borer and from coffee leaf rust. With a  
2 farm-gate value of approximately \$48.4 million, and an unroasted  
3 value of \$101.5 million, the coffee industry represents the  
4 State's third-highest valued agricultural commodity. Despite  
5 this, the coffee industry is currently served statewide by just  
6 one CTAHR extension agent.

7 The legislature further finds that CTAHR's sole extension  
8 agent is currently supported by just one educational support  
9 associate position, which has historically been one hundred per  
10 cent grant funded. Due to varying grant provisions, the  
11 position is limited to work only within the scope of funded  
12 projects and is unable to address the needs and challenges of  
13 other industries supported by CTAHR's cooperative extension  
14 program. Additionally, upwards of thirty to forty-seven per  
15 cent of current grant funding is dedicated to salary and fringe  
16 benefits for project support staff, which reduces funding for  
17 educational events, applied research, travel for statewide  
18 outreach, equipment, and materials and supplies that could  
19 directly benefit local farmers and producers.

20 The legislature further finds that establishing a permanent  
21 educational support associate position will provide much needed



1 support to extension faculty; enable the prioritization of  
2 research and community outreach projects throughout the State;  
3 and support the Kona research station, which encompasses  
4 eighteen acres of projects related to coffee, including coffee  
5 leaf rust and coffee berry borer mitigation, as well as  
6 macadamia, avocado, temperate fruit and nut germplasm, two-lined  
7 spittlebug, tree pruning, grafting, and propagation, organic and  
8 conventional pesticides, and nematode management.

9       Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish and  
10 fund one full-time educational support associate position,  
11 within the university of Hawai'i college of tropical agriculture  
12 and human resources' coffee and orchard crops cooperative  
13 extension and applied research program, to provide  
14 administrative, professional, and technical support to the  
15 college's cooperative extension program, Kona research station,  
16 and the State's highly valued agricultural industries that are  
17 challenged with economically damaging pest, disease, and  
18 production issues.

19       SECTION 2. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of  
20 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,  
21 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the



1 appropriations contained in Act 164, Regular Session of 2023,  
2 and this Act will cause the state general fund expenditure  
3 ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by  
4 \$                    or                    per cent. This current declaration takes  
5 into account general fund appropriations authorized for fiscal  
6 year 2024-2025 in Act 164, Regular Session of 2023, and this Act  
7 only. The reasons for exceeding the general fund expenditure  
8 ceiling are that:

- 9            (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to  
10            serve the public interest; and
- 11            (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs  
12            addressed by this Act.

13            SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$76,570 or so much  
15 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for the  
16 establishment of one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) permanent  
17 educational support associate position within the university of  
18 Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and human resources' Kona  
19 cooperative extension to support the coffee and orchard crops  
20 extension and applied research program and the Kona research  
21 station in the county of Hawai'i.



1           The sum appropriated shall be expended by the university of  
2 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

3           SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

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INTRODUCED BY:

DK



# S.B. NO. 2060

**Report Title:**

UH; CTAHR; Position; Establishment, Kona Cooperative Extension;  
Expenditure Ceiling; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes an Educational Support Associate position within the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources' Kona Cooperative Extension. Makes an appropriation.

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

