

JAN 19 2024

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

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

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 141, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new part I to be appropriately designated
3 and to read as follows:

4 "§141- Healthy soils program; established. (a) The
5 department of agriculture shall establish a healthy soils
6 program. The healthy soils program shall:

7 (1) Create a statewide soil health assessment with a list
8 of practices specific to the State and that are most
9 effective in improving soil health and building soil
10 carbon stocks;

11 (2) Provide farmers with education and technical
12 assistance to implement farm management practices that
13 contribute to healthy soils;

14 (3) Establish standards that apply to the healthy soils
15 program and are based on the findings of the
16 greenhouse gas sequestration task force established
17 pursuant to section 225P-4 relating to minimum levels



1 of soil carbon and water content and required soil
2 health practices; and

3 (4) Subject to available funding, issue awards and other
4 financial incentives to implement farm management
5 practices that contribute to healthy soils.

6 (b) The long-term goals of the healthy soils program shall
7 be to establish:

8 (1) Deadlines by which all awards issued by the department
9 of agriculture shall meet the standards established
10 pursuant to subsection (a) (3);

11 (2) Deadlines by which a plan for all state lands leased
12 for agricultural use shall be required; and

13 (3) Programs incentivizing small farmers, ranchers, and
14 landowners to take carbon negative actions on their
15 respective lands.

16 (c) The department of agriculture shall submit a report
17 detailing the status and progress of the healthy soils program
18 and its recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to
19 the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening
20 of each regular session."



1 SECTION 2. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of
2 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,
3 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the
4 appropriations contained in Act 164, Regular Session of 2023,
5 and this Act will cause the state general fund expenditure
6 ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by
7 \$ or per cent. This current declaration takes
8 into account general fund appropriations authorized for fiscal
9 year 2024-2025 in Act 164, Regular Session of 2023, and this Act
10 only. The reasons for exceeding the general fund expenditure
11 ceiling are that:

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

16 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000 or so much
18 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for the
19 establishment of the healthy soils program and to issues awards
20 and other financial incentives pursuant to the program.



S.B. NO. 2423

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

3 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

4 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

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INTRODUCED BY:





S.B. NO. 2423

Report Title:

Department of Agriculture; Healthy Soils Program; Carbon Sequestration; Report; Expenditure Ceiling; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a Healthy Soils Program. Requires an annual report to the Legislature. Declares that the general fund expenditure ceiling is exceeded. 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.

