

JAN 19 2024

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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, community members,  
3 non-governmental organizations, and government agencies partner  
4 to create a vibrant and resilient local food economy that  
5 enhances and sustains the environmental, economic, and social  
6 health of the community.

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

14           Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to establish within  
15 the department of agriculture the sustainable food systems  
16 working group to:

17           (1) Develop an interagency food systems plan;



# S.B. NO. 2812

1           (2) Assess whether a state farm bill that is modeled after  
2           the federal farm bill should be developed and enacted  
3           for the State; and

4           (3) Draft a proposed state farm bill for consideration by  
5           the legislature.

6           SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the department  
7 of agriculture the sustainable food systems working group. The  
8 working group shall:

9           (1) Develop an interagency food systems plan linked to the  
10           United Nations Sustainable Development Goals for a  
11           more sustainable, resilient local food economy that  
12           enhances and sustains the environmental, economic, and  
13           social health of the community. The plan shall  
14           include the identification of a governance structure  
15           and a plan for implementation;

16           (2) Assess whether a state farm bill that is modeled after  
17           the federal farm bill should be developed and enacted  
18           in the State; and

19           (3) Draft a proposed state farm bill for consideration by  
20           the legislature.



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

3           (1) One member of the house of representatives, to be  
4           selected by the speaker of the house of  
5           representatives;

6           (2) One member of the senate, to be selected by the  
7           president of the senate;

8           (3) A representative of the Hawaii tourism authority, to  
9           be selected by the president and chief executive  
10          officer of the Hawaii tourism authority;

11          (4) Two representatives of the university of Hawaii system  
12          who have experience in food systems, to be selected by  
13          the dean of the college of tropical agriculture and  
14          human resources;

15          (5) A representative of the department of agriculture, to  
16          be selected by the chairperson of the board of  
17          agriculture;

18          (6) A representative of the department of health, to be  
19          selected by the director of health;



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



# S.B. NO. 2812

- 1           (12) A representative of the Hawaii Farm Bureau, to be  
2                   selected by the president of the Hawaii Farm Bureau;
- 3           (13) A representative of the Hawaii Foodbank, to be  
4                   selected by the president and chief executive officer  
5                   of the Hawaii Foodbank;
- 6           (14) A representative of the agricultural sector, to be  
7                   selected by the chairperson of the board of  
8                   agriculture;
- 9           (15) Four farmers, each of whom shall respectively  
10                   represent one of the counties of Hawaii, Kauai, or  
11                   Maui, or the city and county of Honolulu, and who  
12                   shall be selected by the chairperson of the board of  
13                   agriculture;
- 14          (16) Four representatives of the agricultural sector, each  
15                   of whom shall respectively represent one of the  
16                   counties of Hawaii, Kauai, Maui, or the city and  
17                   county of Honolulu, and who shall be selected by the  
18                   respective mayor of each county;
- 19          (17) A representative of the farm-to-school community in  
20                   Hawaii, to be selected by the chairperson of the board  
21                   of agriculture;



# S.B. NO. 2812

- 1           (18) A representative of the Hawaii Foodservice Alliance,  
2                   to be selected by the owner of the Hawaii Foodservice  
3                   Alliance;
- 4           (19) A representative of the Hawaii Food Industry  
5                   Association, to be selected by the executive director  
6                   of the Hawaii Food Industry Association;
- 7           (20) A representative of the Hawaii Farmers Union United,  
8                   to be selected by the president of the Hawaii Farmers  
9                   Union United;
- 10          (21) A representative of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council,  
11                   Inc., to be selected by the president of the Hawaii  
12                   Cattlemen's Council, Inc.;
- 13          (22) A representative of the Hawaii Fishermen's Alliance  
14                   for Conservation and Tradition, to be selected by the  
15                   president of the Hawaii Fishermen's Alliance for  
16                   Conservation and Tradition; and
- 17          (23) A representative of the commercial fishing sector of  
18                   the State, to be selected by the administrator of the  
19                   division of aquatic resources of the department of  
20                   land and natural resources.



1           (c) The chairperson of the board of agriculture shall  
2 serve as chair of the sustainable food systems working group.

3           (d) The interagency food systems plan shall:

4           (1) Address the following:

5                   (A) Food as a human right and healthy food for all;

6                   (B) Social equity and food justice;

7                   (C) Food system resilience;

8                   (D) Agriculture and food system sustainability;

9                   (E) Food at the center of a circular economy;

10                  (F) Sustainable education, workforce development, and  
11                   fair labor; and

12                  (G) Good food governance; and

13           (2) Incorporate the county food access plans.

14           (e) The sustainable food systems working group shall meet  
15 on a rotational basis as follows:

16           (1) One-half of the working group's members shall meet for  
17           the first five months;

18           (2) The other half of the working group's members shall  
19           meet for the second five-month period; and



1           (3) The entire working group shall meet during the  
2           remaining time to reconcile any differences and  
3           finalize the submissions required by subsection (f).

4           (f) The sustainable food systems working group shall  
5 submit:

6           (1) The interagency food systems plan and any  
7           recommendations for implementation of the plan,  
8           including any proposed legislation; and

9           (2) The assessment of the necessity of developing a state  
10          farm bill and a proposed state farm bill,  
11 to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the  
12 convening of the regular session of 2026.

13          (g) The department of agriculture shall provide any  
14 necessary staff support, including support for the preparation  
15 of the interagency food systems plan identified in subsection  
16 (a), to the sustainable food systems working group.

17          (h) The sustainable food systems working group shall be  
18 dissolved on June 30, 2026.

19          (i) For the purpose of this Act, "federal farm bill" means  
20 the comprehensive, omnibus, multiyear law enacted by Congress  
21 that governs agricultural and food programs and serves as a





1 primary agricultural and food policy instrument for the federal  
2 government.

3 SECTION 3. In accordance with section 9 of article VII, of  
4 the Constitution of the State of Hawaii and sections 37-91 and  
5 37-93, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined  
6 that the appropriations contained in this Act will cause the  
7 state general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025  
8 to be exceeded by \$ , or per cent. The reasons  
9 for exceeding the general fund expenditure ceiling are that the  
10 appropriations made in this Act are necessary to serve the  
11 public interest and to meet the needs provided for by this Act.

12 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
14 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 to  
15 establish the sustainable food systems working group and to  
16 implement section 2 of this Act, including coordinating  
17 stakeholder meetings; managing public meetings and website data  
18 in accordance with chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statutes; writing  
19 and printing the interagency food systems plan; drafting a  
20 proposed state farm bill; and potentially obtaining services for  
21 a fee.

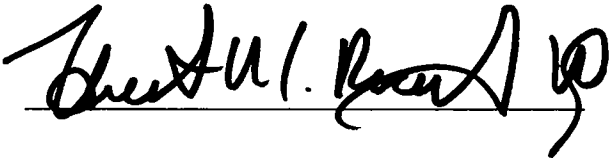


1           The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
2 agriculture for the purposes of this Act; provided that the  
3 appropriation made by this section shall not lapse at the end of  
4 the fiscal biennium for which the appropriation is made;  
5 provided further that all moneys from the appropriation  
6 unencumbered as of June 30, 2026, shall lapse as of that date.

7           SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general  
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                           or so  
9 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for  
10 the establishment of                           full-time equivalent (           FTE)  
11 sustainability specialist position in the department of  
12 agriculture.

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

15           SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

16   INTRODUCED BY: 

# S.B. NO. 2812

**Report Title:**

Sustainable Food Systems Working Group; HDOA; Plan; State Farm Bill; Appropriations; General Fund Expenditure Ceiling Exceeded

**Description:**

Establishes the sustainable food systems working group within the Department of Agriculture. Requires the working group to develop an interagency food systems plan and a state farm bill. Appropriates funds for the working group and for an unspecified number of sustainability specialist positions to be employed by the Department of Agriculture. Declares that the appropriation exceeds the state general fund expenditure ceiling for 2024-2025.

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

