

JAN 20 2023

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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 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 outside the State to feed  
13 Hawaii's population.

14           The legislature also recognizes, however, that high costs  
15 in the State limit the competitiveness of local agriculture and  
16 have undermined efforts to expand local food production. Direct



1 support for local agricultural producers can help overcome the  
2 high costs faced by Hawaii's agricultural sector.

3 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish the  
4 Hawaii agricultural investment program to provide a dedicated  
5 funding source for the local agricultural sector. Through the  
6 program, the department of agriculture can invest in  
7 agricultural producers to support the State's economy and  
8 alleviate financial strains on 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) Moneys in the program shall be awarded as matching  
16 grants to:

17 (1) Increase agricultural production or processing  
18 capacity;

19 (2) Acquire real property for agricultural production or  
20 processing activities;



- 1        (3) Improve real property, irrigation systems, and
- 2        transportation networks necessary to promote
- 3        agricultural production or processing activities;
- 4        (4) Purchase equipment necessary for agricultural
- 5        production or processing activities;
- 6        (5) Conduct research on and testing of agricultural
- 7        products and markets;
- 8        (6) Promote and market agricultural products grown or
- 9        raised in the State;
- 10       (7) Convert chicken shell egg farm or business operations
- 11       from caged to cage-free operations; and
- 12       (8) Any other activities intended to increase agricultural
- 13       production or processing that may lead to the reduced
- 14       importation of food, fodder, or feed from outside the
- 15       State.
  
- 16       (c) The department of agriculture shall submit a report to
- 17       the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening
- 18       of each regular session on the status and progress of existing
- 19       programs and activities and the status of new programs and
- 20       activities funded under the Hawaii agricultural investment
- 21       program. The report shall also include:





# S.B. NO. 640

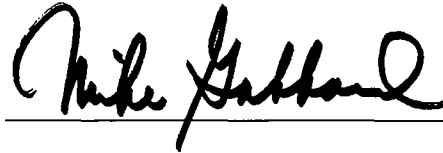
1           SECTION 4. The appropriations made in section 3 of this  
2 Act shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal years for which the  
3 appropriations were made; provided that all moneys from the  
4 appropriations unencumbered as of June 30, 2026, shall lapse as  
5 of that date.

6           SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

7           SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

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INTRODUCED BY:

  
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# S.B. NO. 640

**Report Title:**

Hawaii Agricultural Investment Program; Department of  
Agriculture; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes the Hawaii Agricultural Investment Program to  
support local agricultural producers. Requires annual reports  
to the Legislature. Appropriates funds.

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

