

JAN 20 2023

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE
HONALO MARSHALLING YARD.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Honalo
2 marshalling yard in Kona, Hawaii, was built more than twenty-
3 five years ago, but was not utilized at its full capacity until
4 the Hawaii 'Ulu Cooperative began its operations at the facility
5 in 2017. The cooperative has grown to sixty-five local farm
6 members, serving public schools, hospitals, hotels, and
7 restaurants statewide. However, the facility's existing
8 equipment and infrastructure do not support the projected
9 production of ten thousand pounds per day, or two million pounds
10 per year, of ulu and other co-crops.

11 Cooperatives are needed to help achieve the State's
12 ambitious goals for expanded local food production and
13 agricultural development because Hawaii's farming community is
14 dominated by small-scale operators, where ninety-five per cent
15 of farmers generate less than \$250,000 per year. These
16 operators must work together to realize economies of scale and



1 meet local food demand with export market potential. Only by
2 pooling resources and leveraging collective capabilities will
3 the State meet its goals, such as the Aloha+ Challenge. While
4 farmers continue to improve the State's self-sufficiency for
5 certain food groups like fruit and beef, the State remains
6 dependent on imports of whole grains or starches like rice,
7 wheat, and potatoes. Ulu has the unique potential to help
8 reverse this scenario. It is among the most sustainable staple
9 foods globally because it grows on a perennial tree, which
10 eliminates the need for annual tilling and replanting. Ulu also
11 provides other ecosystem services like carbon sequestration and
12 soil and water retention. Moreover, ulu is a prolific producer
13 with average yields of three hundred pounds per tree per year
14 and requires far less fertilizer and pesticides than comparable
15 staple crops. In addition, it is a culturally appropriate food
16 and historically played an important role in Hawaii's food
17 sovereignty. It is also highly nutritious, gluten-free, low
18 glycemic, and high protein, making it increasingly compelling in
19 the national and international food market as a high-value
20 density export crop.



1 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to
2 accommodate the increased production of ulu and other co-crops
3 processed at the Honalo marshalling yard.

4 SECTION 2. The following sums, or so much thereof as shall
5 be sufficient to finance the projects listed in this Act, are
6 hereby appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of
7 Hawaii for fiscal year 2023-2024:

8 1. Honalo Marshalling Yard, Hawaii

9 A. Plans, design, and equipment and appurtenances.

10	Plans	\$	
11	Design	\$	
12	Equipment	\$	
13	Total funding		\$

14 The sums appropriated for this capital improvement project
15 shall be expended by the department of agriculture for the
16 purposes of this Act.

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

18
INTRODUCED BY: *Mike Gabbard*



S.B. NO. 662

Report Title:

Capital Improvement Project; Honalo Marshalling Yard; Department of Agriculture; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for a capital improvement project for the Honalo Marshalling Yard.

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