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# 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, also known as breadfruit, has the  
8 unique potential to help reverse this scenario. It is among the  
9 most sustainable staple foods globally because it grows on a  
10 perennial tree, which eliminates the need for annual tilling and  
11 replanting. Ulu also provides other ecosystem services like  
12 carbon sequestration and soil and water retention. Moreover,  
13 ulu is a prolific producer with average yields of three hundred  
14 pounds per tree per year and requires far less fertilizer and  
15 pesticides than comparable staple crops. In addition, it is a  
16 culturally appropriate food and historically played an important  
17 role in Hawaii's food sovereignty. It is also nutritious,  
18 gluten-free, low glycemic, and a complete protein food, making  
19 it increasingly compelling in the national and international  
20 food market as a high-value 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.



**Report Title:**

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

**Description:**

Appropriates funds for a capital improvement project for the Honalo Marshalling Yard. (SD1)

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