
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL CLIMATE RESILIENCY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that in 2024, the
2 department of agriculture launched a statewide "Go B.I.G. (Buy,
3 Invest, Grow) for Agriculture" initiative to encourage buying
4 local products, invest in the State's agricultural development,
5 and grow the scale of agricultural operations in the State. As
6 part of the initiative, agricultural producers were surveyed to
7 identify the agricultural industry's top challenges. Based on
8 the data collected, the high cost of equipment poses a major
9 barrier to agricultural growth.

10 The legislature further finds that agricultural producers
11 require capital to purchase technology and other equipment
12 necessary for their operations. The legislature believes that
13 by investing in the agricultural supply chain, the State can
14 increase local food production, enhance climate resilience,
15 improve food security, and support the economic growth of small-
16 to mid-sized farms.

17 The purpose of this Act is to:



1 (1) Establish a three-year climate-resilient food systems
2 grant pilot program; and

3 (2) Appropriate funds for the pilot program.

4 SECTION 2. (a) There is established a three-year climate-
5 resilient food systems grant pilot program, which shall be
6 administered by the department of agriculture.

7 (b) The climate-resilient food systems grant pilot program
8 shall provide grants to agricultural producers in the State, in
9 an amount ranging from \$10,000 to \$100,000, for the acquisition
10 of special-purpose equipment, technology, and ancillary costs.

11 (c) Grants shall be awarded on a competitive basis through
12 a request for applications, in compliance with rules adopted
13 pursuant to chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and
14 chapter 103D, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

15 (d) Grant proposals shall be submitted to the department
16 of agriculture in accordance with administrative rules adopted
17 by the department to administer the grant pilot program. Each
18 request shall, at a minimum, state:

19 (1) The name of the farmer or rancher requesting grant
20 funds;



1 (2) That the applicant is engaged in expanding production
2 capacity of the applicant's agricultural or value-
3 added products; and

4 (3) How the applicant intends to use the grant for
5 projects that demonstrate a significant impact on
6 local agriculture production and enhance the economic
7 viability of small family farms or ranches.

8 (e) Each applicant for a grant shall provide proof that
9 the applicant:

10 (1) Has United States citizenship or permanent United
11 States resident alien status and is a resident or
12 domiciliary of the State at the time of the
13 application;

14 (2) Grows or produces raw or processed agricultural
15 products on a small family farm or ranch in the State
16 at the time of the application;

17 (3) Complies with all other federal, state, or county
18 statutes, rules, or ordinances necessary to conduct
19 the activities or provide the services for which a
20 grant is awarded, including the United States Food and
21 Drug Administration Food Safety Modernization Act,



1 P.L. 111-353, and that Act's provisions on supplier
2 verification;

3 (4) Complies with all applicable federal and state laws
4 prohibiting discrimination against a person on the
5 basis of race, color, national origin, religion,
6 creed, sex, age, sexual orientation, or disability;

7 (5) Agrees not to use state funds for travel, conferences,
8 entertainment, perquisites, or lobbying activities;

9 (6) Allows the department, legislative committees and
10 their staff, and the auditor full access to the
11 applicant's records, reports, files, and other related
12 documents and information for the purposes of
13 monitoring, measuring the effectiveness of, and
14 ensuring the proper expenditure of the grant;

15 (7) Agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the State and
16 any of its officers, agents, and employees from and
17 against any and all claims arising out of or resulting
18 from activities carried out or projects undertaken
19 with funds provided by this Act, and procure
20 sufficient insurance to provide this indemnification



1 if requested to do so by the department of
2 agriculture;

3 (8) Satisfies any other standards that may be required by
4 the source of funding; and

5 (9) Meets all other standards prescribed in rules adopted
6 by the department of agriculture to implement the
7 grants awarded under this Act.

8 (f) No grant shall be awarded under this Act unless the
9 applicant matches up to twenty per cent of the total project
10 costs.

11 (g) For the purposes of this Act, "small family farm or
12 ranch" means any farm or ranch where the majority of the
13 business is owned by the producer and individuals related to the
14 producer and with a gross cash farm or ranch income of less than
15 \$350,000 per year.

16 (h) The climate-resilient food systems grant pilot program
17 shall terminate on June 30, 2028.

18 SECTION 3. (a) The department of agriculture shall submit
19 interim reports to the legislature no later than twenty days
20 prior to the convening of the regular sessions of 2026 and 2027.
21 The interims reports shall include:



1 (1) The department's progress on the implementation of
2 this Act;

3 (2) Preliminary results of the climate-resilient food
4 systems grant pilot program, including the number of
5 grants awarded each year; and

6 (3) Any findings and recommendations, including any
7 proposed legislation.

8 (b) The department of agriculture shall submit a final
9 report of its administrative activities, expenditures, findings,
10 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, no
11 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular
12 session of 2028. The report shall include the outcomes of the
13 climate-resilient food systems grant pilot program and a
14 recommendation as to whether the program should be made
15 permanent, with or without modifications.

16 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
18 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and
19 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
20 year 2026-2027 to carry out the purposes of this Act.



- 1 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
2 of agriculture for the purposes of this Act.
3 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



Report Title:

Climate-resilient Food Systems Grant Pilot Program; Reports;
Appropriation

Description:

Establishes a three-year climate-resilient food systems grant pilot program, to be administered by the Department of Agriculture. Requires reports to the Legislature. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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

