

JAN 17 2025

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the department of
2 agriculture's existing agricultural statistics program plays a
3 crucial role in providing producers and policymakers with
4 essential data to guide short-term decision making and long-term
5 strategic planning. In fact, the department of agricultural has
6 a statutory duty and also a contractual obligation with the
7 United States Department of Agriculture to ensure robust data
8 collection and reporting across the State. However, the
9 department has experienced several shortcomings in the
10 agricultural statistics program, including limited access to
11 accurate and timely agricultural data and outdated collection,
12 analysis, and dissemination of agricultural statistics, which
13 results in limited insights to data that is critical to the
14 movement of agricultural goods into and within the State.

15 The legislature further finds that in 2024, the department
16 of agriculture launched a statewide process to address key
17 economic challenges facing the agricultural sector and developed



1 short-term actions and a long-term strategy aimed at addressing
2 the shortcomings of its statistics program and other goals, such
3 as boosting local product availability and expanding market
4 capacity. The objectives of the long-term strategy are to:

- 5 (1) Collect, analyze, and report data and trends on the
6 intra- and inter-island production, distribution, and
7 sale of select agricultural products;
- 8 (2) Provide producers with the information needed to make
9 informed decisions about planting, scaling operations,
10 and exploring new growth or market opportunities;
- 11 (3) Provide other decisionmakers with key analyses of
12 production and production opportunities, trends, and
13 growth to better allocate public resources to support
14 agriculture and the public; and
- 15 (4) Support the strategic growth and development of
16 Hawaii's agricultural sector by enhancing the
17 statistics program's data collection, analysis, and
18 reporting capabilities.

19 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to revitalize and
20 enhance the department of agriculture's agricultural statistics



1 program by statutorily establishing an agricultural statistics
2 program and appropriating funds for the program.

3 SECTION 2. Chapter 148, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and
5 to read as follows:

6 "PART . AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

7 §148- Agricultural statistics program. The department
8 of agriculture shall:

- 9 (1) Collect data, provide analysis, and report on the
10 intra- and inter-island transportation of fresh fruit
11 and vegetable products;
- 12 (2) Develop and maintain electronic systems for capturing
13 and analyzing data on the intra- and inter-island
14 transportation of fresh fruit and vegetable products;
15 and
- 16 (3) Establish a structured rotation schedule for expanded,
17 consistent, sector-specific surveys to collect
18 comprehensive data on key agricultural activities,
19 including:
- 20 (A) Agricultural theft;
- 21 (B) Agricultural tourism;



- 1 (C) Aquaculture;
- 2 (D) Crop and livestock losses;
- 3 (E) Farm technology;
- 4 (F) Horticulture and nursery;
- 5 (G) Livestock numbers and productivity;
- 6 (H) Producer expansion;
- 7 (I) Seed;
- 8 (J) Tropical fruits;
- 9 (K) Vegetables and melons; and
- 10 (L) Other surveys as may be determined necessary.

11 **§148- Exemption.** (a) Data and information collected
12 by the department of agriculture for the purposes of this part
13 shall not be subject to disclosure under chapter 92F.

14 (b) All data collected, compiled, and stored in the
15 agricultural statistics program shall be confidential and
16 protected from discovery, production, and disclosure.
17 Unauthorized review, use, disclosure, or distribution of data
18 shall be strictly prohibited. The State shall not be liable for
19 any dissemination of information collected, compiled, or stored
20 for use in the agricultural statistics program.



§148- Collaboration; partnerships. The department of agriculture may:

(1) Collaborate with national and local entities, including the following, to enhance data collection, analyses, and reporting efforts:

(A) United States Department of Agriculture;

(B) United States National Agricultural Statistics Service;

(C) United States Agricultural Marketing Service;

(D) United States Bureau of Labor Statistics;

(E) University of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and human resources;

(F) University of Hawaii economic research organization; and

(G) Other state agencies as needed; and

(2) Establish partnerships with local producers, transportation companies, aggregators, and distributors to facilitate the electronic capture of and access to other data sets."

SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$880,000 or so much



1 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the
2 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
3 2026-2027 for the following:

- 4 (1) \$170,000 for the establishment of two full-time
5 equivalent (2.0 FTE) agricultural economist positions;
- 6 (2) \$280,000 for the establishment of four full-time
7 equivalent (4.0 FTE) research statistician positions;
- 8 (3) \$130,000 for the establishment of secured office
9 space, equipment, the development of electronic data
10 collection systems, and program expenses for six
11 islands; and
- 12 (4) \$300,000 for contracted specialty surveys to be
13 conducted by third-party entities, focusing on
14 critical agricultural data needs.

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

17 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.



S.B. NO. 1111

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INTRODUCED BY: *Keith M. Pearson*



S.B. NO. 111

Report Title:

Department of Agriculture; Agricultural Statistics Program;
Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the agricultural statistics program in statute.
Appropriates funds for the program.

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