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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State is  
2 committed to promoting sustainable economic development,  
3 enhancing local food production, improving access to healthy  
4 food, promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation,  
5 minimizing food waste, and reducing food insecurity. This  
6 commitment is evident through initiatives such as:

7       (1) The Hawaii sustainability 2050 plan, which highlights  
8 Hawaii's overall economic, climate, and food  
9 system-related goals;

10       (2) Act 151, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019, which mandates  
11 doubling local food production and increasing food  
12 exports by 2030; and

13       (3) Acts 175 and 176, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021, which  
14 establish goals for local food procurement in schools  
15 and other government entities, with a target of fifty  
16 per cent locally sourced food by 2050.



1        Despite these efforts and more, high food insecurity and  
2        barriers to local food production in Hawaii remain. According  
3        to a recent report by the Hawaii Foodbank, nearly one-third of  
4        households are food insecure, and food insecurity rates are  
5        consistently higher than the national average. Additionally, a  
6        recent study found that only twelve per cent of households  
7        maintain a fourteen-day emergency supply of food, water, and  
8        medicine, as recommended by emergency managers.

9        The legislature further finds that achieving a sustainable,  
10       resilient, and equitable food system requires collaboration  
11       across state agencies, producers, retailers, non-governmental  
12       organizations, and community members. Such a system can enhance  
13       environmental, economic, social, and cultural health;  
14       well-being; and equity while also helping the State respond  
15       effectively to disasters and crises. Interagency coordination  
16       and an integrated approach are essential to maximizing  
17       efficiencies and achieving impact.

18       Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

19       (1)    Establish a statewide interagency food systems  
20              coordination team and an interagency food systems



1 working group within the agribusiness development  
2 corporation; and

3 (2) Appropriate funds for staff and operating costs of the  
4 team and working group.

5 SECTION 2. Chapter 163D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
6 amended by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and  
7 to read as follows:

8 "PART . INTERAGENCY FOOD SYSTEMS COORDINATION

9 §163D-A Statewide interagency food systems coordination  
10 team. There is established within the corporation the statewide  
11 interagency food systems coordination team. The statewide  
12 interagency food systems coordination team shall coordinate and  
13 oversee the interagency food systems working group established  
14 under section 163D-B and develop a process to implement  
15 interagency food systems plans and actions.

16 §163D-B Interagency food systems working group. (a)

17 There is established within the corporation an interagency food  
18 systems working group.

19 (b) The working group shall consist of the following  
20 members:



- 1 (1) The chairperson of the board of agriculture, or the  
2 chairperson's designee, who shall serve as co-chair;
- 3 (2) The director of business, economic development, and  
4 tourism, or the director's designee, who shall serve  
5 as co-chair;
- 6 (3) One member of the house of representatives, to be  
7 selected by the speaker of the house of  
8 representatives;
- 9 (4) One member of the senate, to be selected by the  
10 president of the senate; and
- 11 (5) Five members with relevant experience, to be invited  
12 by the co-chairs.
- 13 (c) The interagency food systems working group shall:
  - 14 (1) Develop governance, decision-making, and operating  
15 protocols;
  - 16 (2) Coordinate with county and community-led organizations  
17 that are involved with food systems planning;
  - 18 (3) Identify resources to support interagency food systems  
19 coordination and implementation efforts;
  - 20 (4) Develop internal and external communication processes;



(5) Create time-bound implementation plans and ways to measure progress toward statewide food systems goals; and

(6) Utilize policy impact analysis tools to evaluate proposed actions.

(d) The interagency food systems working group shall submit a report of its activities and any recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session.

(e) The department of business, economic development, and tourism shall provide any necessary administrative support to the statewide interagency food systems coordination team and the interagency food systems working group established under this section."

SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for the statewide interagency food systems coordination team and interagency food systems working group; provided that the sums shall be allocated as follows:



- 1           (1)   \$                   for           full-time equivalent (       FTE)  
2                   temporary food systems specialist position;  
3           (2)   \$                   for           full-time equivalent (       FTE)  
4                   temporary policy analyst position;  
5           (3)   \$                   for           full-time equivalent (       FTE)  
6                   temporary administrative assistant position; and  
7           (4)   \$                   for operating costs for the statewide  
8                   interagency food systems coordination team and  
9                   interagency food systems working group.

10           The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
11 of business, economic development, and tourism for the purposes  
12 of this Act.

13           SECTION 4. In codifying the new sections added by section  
14 2 of this Act, the revisor of statutes shall substitute  
15 appropriate section numbers for the letters used in designating  
16 the new sections in this Act.

17           SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



**Report Title:**

DBEDT; ADC; Statewide Interagency Food Systems Coordination Team; Interagency Food Systems Working Group; Reports; Positions; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes the Statewide Interagency Food Systems Coordination Team and the Interagency Food Systems Working Group within the Agribusiness Development Corporation. Requires reports to the Legislature. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD3)

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

