
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO VALUE-ADDED PRODUCTS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that establishing a food
2 and product innovation network is critical to meeting the
3 State's agricultural and economic diversification goals. The
4 network will allow businesses in the State to capitalize
5 globally on the "made in Hawaii", "produced in Hawaii", or
6 "processed in Hawaii" brand; create world-class products; and
7 scale up production by providing the businesses with access to a
8 diverse suite of manufacturing equipment and industry expertise.

9 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish a
10 statewide network of open-access food and value-added product
11 development facilities to enable businesses to scale up new
12 products from research and development to manufacturing and
13 commercialization.

14 SECTION 2. Chapter 163D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
15 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
16 and to read as follows:



1 "§163D- Food and product innovation network;
2 established. (a) There is established within the corporation
3 the food and product innovation network. The food and product
4 innovation network shall:

5 (1) Allow businesses in the State to capitalize globally
6 on the "made in Hawaii", "produced in Hawaii", or
7 "processed in Hawaii" brand, pursuant to
8 section 486-119;

9 (2) Create world-class products; and

10 (3) Scale up production by providing businesses with
11 access to a diverse suite of manufacturing equipment
12 and industry expertise.

13 (b) Partner members of the food and product innovation
14 network shall include:

15 (1) The department of education food and product
16 innovation center in Kekaha, on the island of Kauai;

17 (2) The foreign-trade zone facility in Hilo, on the island
18 of Hawaii;

19 (3) The university of Hawaii Maui college food innovation
20 center, on the island of Maui; and



1 (4) The university of Hawaii Leeward community college
2 value-added product development center in Wahiawa, on
3 the island of Oahu.

4 (c) The food and product innovation network shall:

5 (1) Offer a range of resources within the wider network to
6 support innovation and business development, including
7 courses and events relating to food and value-added
8 product development, entrepreneurship, marketing,
9 branding, business management, workforce development,
10 intellectual property protection, and other topics;

11 (2) Provide new product development support from
12 early-stage trials to commercialization by
13 establishing a network of facilities with equipment of
14 various scales, providing expert advice, and offering
15 resources tailored to the regional economies;

16 (3) Provide low-risk commercial production with
17 appropriate certifications for exporting products and
18 selling products locally;

19 (4) Provide recommendations on process optimization by
20 offering advice and networking, identifying and



testing equipment, planning trials, and analyzing results;

(5) Increase exports by securing facilities and developing compliance programs for off-shore markets; provided that each county shall have no more than two food and product innovation network facilities that produce products labeled "made in Hawaii", "produced in Hawaii", or "processed in Hawaii" pursuant to section 486-119;

(6) Develop entrepreneurs to grow the State's economy; and

(7) Prepare businesses to scale up and to achieve autonomous business success and sustainability.

(d) No later than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session, the food and product innovation network shall submit a report to the legislature that includes:

(1) A description of the food and product innovation network's activities and progress in the preceding year, including the activities and progress of primary members and partner members, in response to the directives established pursuant to subsection (c);



1 (2) An assessment of any progress made in growing the
2 State's agriculture industry, food industry, and
3 related industries, and in meeting the State's food
4 security goals; and

5 (3) Any proposed legislation.

6 (e) As used in this section:

7 "Open-access" means the availability of infrastructure,
8 expertise, financing, and market opportunities that enable food
9 producers, processors, and entrepreneurs – regardless of
10 scale – to develop and commercialize innovative food and
11 value-added products. This includes equitable access to shared
12 facilities, pilot plants, food-grade laboratories, regulatory
13 support, and industry networks to reduce barriers to entry and
14 foster product development, scalability, and market expansion.

15 "Wider network" means collaborative ecosystems that connect
16 food industry stakeholders, research institutions, technology
17 providers, and policymakers to share knowledge, foster
18 innovation, and accelerate commercialization. These networks
19 provide businesses with direct access to research and
20 development, advanced manufacturing capabilities, technical
21 expertise, and global market insights. By promoting



1 transparency, cross-sector partnerships, and seamless
2 information exchange, wider networks drive industry growth and
3 competitiveness.

4 "World-class products" means food and value-added products
5 that meet internationally recognized standards for quality,
6 safety, sustainability, and market competitiveness. These
7 products leverage high-quality ingredients, cutting-edge
8 processing techniques, and consumer-driven innovation to ensure
9 superior taste, nutritional value, and global marketability.

10 Key attributes include compliance with leading food safety and
11 quality certifications (e.g., HACCP, FSMA, ISO 22000), adherence
12 to environmental and ethical sourcing standards, and alignment
13 with emerging consumer trends such as clean-label, functional
14 foods, and sustainable packaging."

15 SECTION 3. Section 163D-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
16 amended by adding two new definitions to be appropriately
17 inserted and to read as follows:

18 "Partner member" means an open-access food and value-added
19 product development facility that is part of the food and
20 product innovation network but is not managed or operated by the
21 corporation.



1 "Primary member" means an open-access food and value-added
2 product development facility that is part of the food and
3 product innovation network and is managed and operated by the
4 corporation."

5 SECTION 4. Section 163D-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
6 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

7 "(b) The corporation shall [~~develop~~]:

8 (1) Develop, promote, assist, and market agricultural
9 products for local consumption, and shall promote and
10 assist in commercial export of agricultural
11 products[~~+~~]; and

12 (2) Oversee the food and product innovation network
13 established pursuant to section 163D- ; provided
14 that the responsibilities and operations of each
15 partner member shall remain with the partner member."

16 SECTION 5. 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 for the food and product innovation network
21 established pursuant to this Act, including:



(1) \$ for a food and product innovation facility in the county of Maui; provided that the facility shall utilize axis deer for producing food and value-added products, including leather and pharmaceuticals;

(2) \$ for a food and product innovation facility on the island of Oahu;

(3) \$ for an open-access food and value-added product development facility in Hilo on the island of Hawaii; and

(4) \$ for an open-access food and value-added product development facility in Kailua-Kona on the island of Hawaii.

The sums appropriated shall be expended by the agribusiness development corporation for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 6. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

ADC; Economic Development; Food and Product Innovation Network;
Food Security; Reports; Appropriations

Description:

Establishes a Food and Product Innovation Network within the Agribusiness Development Corporation. Appropriates funds for food and product development or innovation facilities in the County of Maui and on the islands of Oahu and Hawaii. Requires annual reports to the Legislature. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

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