

JAN 17 2025

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that many of Hawaii's
2 farmers and ranchers are finding difficulty in securing the
3 financial support necessary to build a thriving, vibrant
4 business. Various sources of funding, including grants provided
5 by the United States Department of Agriculture and the State,
6 counties, and private entities, are available for farmers and
7 ranchers. Access to grants from the United States Department of
8 Agriculture and other sources can increase production capacity,
9 provide new business opportunities, and increase employment
10 opportunities within the State's agricultural industry.

11 The legislature further finds that farmers and ranchers
12 applying for grants may have to complete an application process
13 that is sometimes complex. Without specific technical expertise
14 in grant writing, many farmers and ranchers may be deterred from
15 applying for those grants. Well-trained and skilled grant
16 specialists would be able to assist farmers and ranchers in
17 obtaining and fulfilling the requirements of grants.



1 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish grant
2 specialist positions within the department of agriculture to
3 assist farmers and ranchers in applying for, obtaining, and
4 fulfilling the requirements of grants offered by the United
5 States Department of Agriculture, State, counties, or private
6 entities.

7 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
9 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and
10 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
11 year 2026-2027 for the establishment of three full-time
12 equivalent (3.0 FTE) grant specialist positions within the
13 department of agriculture to assist farmers and ranchers in
14 applying for, obtaining, and fulfilling the requirements of
15 grants offered by the United States Department of Agriculture,
16 State, counties, or private entities; provided that the grant
17 specialist positions shall prioritize assisting farmers and
18 ranchers who produce local food that is at least partly consumed
19 within the State.

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



1 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

2 INTRODUCED BY: Mike Hubbard



S.B. NO. 688

Report Title:

DOA; Grant Specialist Positions; Appropriations

Description:

Appropriates funds to establish grant specialist positions within the Department of Agriculture.

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

