
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 highlights
8 Hawaii's overall economic, climate, and food system-
9 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 Food Bank, 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, well-
14 being, and equity while also responding effectively to disasters
15 and crises. Interagency coordination and an integrated approach
16 are essential to maximizing efficiencies and achieving impact.

17 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish a
18 statewide interagency food systems coordination team and an
19 interagency food systems working group within the department of
20 agriculture.



1 SECTION 2. (a) There is established the statewide
2 interagency food systems coordination team within the department
3 of agriculture for administrative purposes. The statewide
4 interagency food systems coordination team shall develop and
5 oversee the interagency food systems working group established
6 under subsection (b) and a planning process to implement
7 interagency food systems plans and actions.

8 (b) There is established an interagency food systems
9 working group within the department of agriculture for
10 administrative purposes, whose members shall include but not be
11 limited to:

12 (1) The chairperson of the board of agriculture, or the
13 chairperson's designee, and the director of business,
14 economic development, and tourism, or the director's
15 designee, who shall serve as co-chairs of the working
16 group;

17 (2) One member of the house of representatives, to be
18 selected by the speaker of the house of
19 representatives;

20 (3) One member of the senate, to be selected by the
21 president of the senate;



- 1 (4) One representative from the department of education;
- 2 (5) One representative from the department of health;
- 3 (6) One representative from the office of Hawaiian
- 4 affairs;
- 5 (7) One representative from the office of planning and
- 6 sustainable development; and
- 7 (8) One representative from the agribusiness development
- 8 corporation.
- 9 (c) The co-chairs may invite other representatives of
- 10 interested organizations with relevant experience and expertise
- 11 to participate in the interagency food systems working group, as
- 12 necessary.
- 13 (d) 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 food systems
- 17 planning processes;
- 18 (3) Identify resources for interagency coordination and
- 19 implementation;
- 20 (4) Develop internal and external communication processes;



1 (5) Create time-bound implementation plans and ways of
2 measuring progress toward statewide food system goals;
3 and

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

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

10 (f) The department of agriculture shall provide any
11 necessary administrative support to the statewide interagency
12 food systems coordination team and the interagency food systems
13 working group established under this section.

14 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$944,100 or so much
16 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the
17 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
18 2026-2027 to be allocated as follows:

19 (1) \$399,300 for the establishment of one full-time
20 equivalent (1.0 FTE) food system specialist position
21 within the department of agriculture;



H.B. NO. 967

Report Title:

DOA; Statewide Interagency Food Systems Coordination Team;
Interagency Food Systems Working Group; Reports; Positions;
Appropriations

Description:

Establishes the Statewide Interagency Food Systems Coordination Team and the Interagency Food Systems Working Group within the Department of Agriculture. Requires reports to the Legislature. Establishes positions. Appropriates funds.

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

