
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 2050 sustainability 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 operating costs of the team and
4 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) Members with relevant experience, to be invited by the
- 12 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;



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

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

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

15 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$100,000 or so much
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 for
18 operating costs for the statewide interagency food systems
19 coordination team and interagency food systems working group.



1 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
2 business, economic development, and tourism for the purposes of
3 this Act.

4 SECTION 4. In codifying the new sections added by
5 section 2 of this Act, the revisor of statutes shall substitute
6 appropriate section numbers for the letters used in designating
7 the new sections in this Act.

8 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.



Report Title:

DBEDT; ADC; Statewide Interagency Food Systems Coordination Team; Interagency Food Systems Working Group; Reports; 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. (CD1)

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