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# 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 the absence of a  
2 clear and comprehensive definition for "bona fide farmer" in the  
3 State has several far-reaching impacts, including  
4 inconsistencies in allocating agricultural resources, confusion  
5 in implementing tax and land use policies, and difficulties in  
6 achieving sustainable agricultural goals. Establishing clear,  
7 universal definitions for the term "bona fide farmer" and "bona  
8 fide agricultural activity" would provide a foundation for more  
9 effective policy implementation, ensure that resources are  
10 directed to those truly engaged in farming, and help the State  
11 achieve its agricultural and environmental objectives.

12           Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require the  
13 board of agriculture to define the terms "bona fide farmer" and  
14 "bona fide agricultural activity".

15           SECTION 2. (a) The board of agriculture shall draft  
16 comprehensive definitions for the terms "bona fide farmer" and



1 "bona fide agricultural activity" to be placed in section 141-1,  
2 Hawaii Revised Statutes.

3 (b) The definition for "bona fide farmer" shall outline  
4 the following criteria:

- 5 (1) Minimum income threshold;
- 6 (2) Primary occupation;
- 7 (3) Farm size or scale; and
- 8 (4) Commercial focus.

9 The definition for "bona fide farmer" also shall include  
10 the term "bona fide agricultural activity".

11 (c) The department of agriculture shall submit a report of  
12 the drafted definitions for the terms "bona fide farmer" and  
13 "bona fide agricultural activity", including any proposed  
14 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior  
15 to the convening of the regular session of 2026.

16 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

*Hunt M. Richardson* 



# S.B. NO. 496

**Report Title:**

BOA; Bona Fide Farmer; Bona Fide Agricultural Activity;  
Definitions; Report

**Description:**

Requires the Board of Agriculture to define the terms "bona fide farmer" and "bona fide agricultural activity". Requires a report to the Legislature.

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

