

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 over the past four
2 decades, the value of all agricultural products in the State has
3 been in decline. Investing in the State's agricultural data and
4 statistics gathering system is a necessary and critical
5 component to the revitalization and future of Hawaii's
6 agricultural sector.

7 The legislature further finds that utilizing modern data
8 and statistics gathering methodologies can promote access to
9 high-quality data, which can then be used to help empower
10 policymakers and agricultural stakeholders in making informed
11 decisions and supporting sustainable farming practices.
12 Improving the technical, data-gathering component of the
13 department of agriculture is necessary to provide the State and
14 its farmers with the ability to track and anticipate patterns of
15 agricultural activity, guide land use practices, support
16 commodity investment and agricultural resource development, and
17 inform future infrastructure investments.



1 Accordingly, the purpose of the Act is to appropriate funds
2 to the department of agriculture to conduct a study of
3 agricultural markets for Hawaii farmers and to establish
4 positions to conduct and collect relevant agricultural data for
5 public consumption.

6 SECTION 2. (a) The department of agriculture shall
7 conduct a study on agricultural markets for Hawaii farmers,
8 which shall include strategies and actions that support
9 agriculture and a robust agricultural sector in the State.

10 (b) The department of agriculture shall submit a report of
11 its findings and recommendations, including any proposed
12 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
13 to the convening of the regular session of 2026.

14 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$200,000 or so much
16 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 for a one
17 year study of agricultural markets for Hawaii farmers.

18 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
19 agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

20 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so



1 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and
2 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
3 year 2026-2027 for the establishment of:

4 (1) One full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) position data
5 scientist, statistician, or market analyst to conduct
6 data analysis; and

7 (2) One full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) position field
8 researcher to collect relevant agricultural data for
9 the agricultural statistics services to build an
10 agricultural data dashboard for public consumption.

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

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

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INTRODUCED BY: *Thant M. Pichay*



S.B. NO. 506

Report Title:

DOA; Agricultural Markets Study; Agricultural Statistics Services; Positions; Report; Appropriations

Description:

Requires the Department of Agriculture to conduct a study on agricultural markets for Hawaii farmers. Appropriates funds for the one year study on agricultural markets for Hawaii farmers. Establishes and funds two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) positions to collect agricultural data and conduct data analysis for public consumption. 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.

