

JAN 17 2025

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO BEEKEEPING.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that bees are beneficial
2 to local pollination processes and native ecosystems and play a
3 critically important role in agriculture as they pollinate food
4 crops and provide other useful products, including honey and
5 wax. Hawaii's tropical weather, climate, and plant diversity
6 present ideal conditions for the year-round breeding of queen
7 bees, which may be exported to ensure a more genetically
8 diverse, adaptive, and resilient global bee stock. Although the
9 honeybee is not a species native to Hawaii, it has played a
10 significant role in the pollination of plants that support
11 agriculture in the State.

12 The legislature further finds that the department of
13 agriculture currently manages and monitors the beekeeping
14 industry in the State. However, its ability to monitor, respond
15 to, and prevent disease or pest outbreaks, as well as pursue and
16 distribute financial resources available to beekeepers, could be
17 more efficiently achieved with more up-to-date data.



S.B. NO. 765

1 The legislature also finds that new beekeepers who do not
2 have proper training or information on how to safely manage bees
3 may cause harm to both the beekeeping industry or nearby
4 properties, increasing the risk of personal liability.

5 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

- 6 (1) Clarify the registration process for beekeepers with
7 the department of agriculture;
- 8 (2) Require the department of agriculture to provide
9 guidance and support to registered beekeepers to help
10 beekeepers adhere to certain industry standards and
11 best management practices in beekeeping; and
- 12 (3) Establish a limitation on liability for any registered
13 beekeeper who follows industry standards and best
14 practices.

15 SECTION 2. Section 142-100, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
16 amended to read as follows:

17 "**[+]§142-100 Beekeepers, registration; apiary program. [+]**

18 (a) Beekeepers may register with the department of agriculture,
19 on forms prescribed and prepared by the department, which shall
20 include the following information:



1 (1) The name, address, and contact information for the
2 beekeeper; and

3 (2) Other information that may assist the department in
4 compiling accurate information on Hawaii's beekeeping
5 industry.

6 (b) The department of agriculture shall keep registration
7 information confidential subject to the limitations on
8 confidentiality imposed under chapter 92F; provided that the
9 ~~[name and business address of each registrant shall be made~~
10 ~~publicly available by the department; and provided further that~~
11 ~~the] department may compile statistics based on the~~
12 information~~[7]~~ pursuant to section 141-1.

13 (c) The registration shall be effective for a period of
14 ~~[one year,]~~ five years, and shall be renewed at the end of the
15 ~~[one year]~~ five-year period.

16 (d) The department of agriculture shall advise and support
17 the efforts of registered beekeepers to adhere to the following
18 industry standards and best management practices:

19 (1) Keep colonies at least twenty-five feet from property
20 lines; provided that a distance between ten and
21 twenty-five feet shall be adequate if:



- 1 (A) Beekeepers ensure that colonies face the
2 direction opposite the property line; or
3 (B) Beekeepers situate colonies behind a flyover
4 barrier that directs bee flight paths away from
5 the property line;
6 (2) Keep colonies in hives with removable frames that
7 shall be kept in sound and usable condition;
8 (3) Maintain an adequate and accessible supply of fresh
9 water on-site, including landing sites for the bees to
10 drink from;
11 (4) Ensure that hives are protected from bright lights at
12 night;
13 (5) Manage colonies in a controlled manner to prevent
14 swarming;
15 (6) Adhere to storage and sanitation practices that
16 prevent disease and theft; mitigate pests, including
17 small hive beetles, wax moths, and varroa mites; and
18 support the overall health of the hives;
19 (7) Thoroughly clean reused hive and beekeeping equipment
20 of hive products, including old comb and honey;



1 (8) Grow flowers and plant species where practicable for
2 all seasons that are suitable for regional climates to
3 support bee activity year-round; and

4 (9) Requeen hives and colonies if the apiary begins to
5 demonstrate more aggressive behavior.

6 ~~[(d)]~~ (e) The department of agriculture shall establish an
7 apiary program, which ~~[may]~~ shall include the following
8 positions, to carry out the purposes of this ~~[+]~~section~~[+]~~:

- 9 (1) One apiary specialist;
10 (2) One apiary planner; and
11 (3) Two apiary technicians.

12 (f) A beekeeper that is actively registered with the
13 department of agriculture pursuant to subsection (a) and in good
14 faith adheres to the industry standards and best management
15 practices established in subsection (d) shall not be liable for
16 any injury resulting to any person arising from the beekeeper's
17 apiary, except for damages that result from the beekeeper's
18 gross negligence or wanton acts or omissions.

19 (g) As used in this section:

20 "Apiary" means the assembly of one or more managed colonies
21 and their hives kept at a single location.



1 "Bee" means all life stages of the common domesticated
2 European honeybee. "Bee" does not include wasps, hornets,
3 African subspecies, or Africanized hybrids.

4 "Colony" means an aggregate of bees consisting principally
5 of workers, but ideally also consists of one queen, and includes
6 drones, brood, combs, and honey.

7 "Disease" means any condition adversely affecting bees or
8 their brood, including bacteria, viruses, invertebrate pests,
9 and the presence of undesirable genetic characteristics.

10 "Flyover barrier" means a solid wall, fence, dense
11 vegetation, or combination thereof that encourages bees to fly
12 over rather than fly through.

13 "Hive" means a structure of housing for a colony."

14 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
16 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and
17 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
18 year 2026-2027 for the department of agriculture to register and
19 provide support to beekeepers pursuant to this Act, including
20 the establishment of positions for the department's apiary
21 program.



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

3 SECTION 4. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
4 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
5 begun before its effective date.

6 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
7 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

8 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

9

INTRODUCED BY: Christy M. Puschel *CP*



S.B. NO. 765

Report Title:

DOA; Beekeepers; Registration; Industry Standards; Best Management Practices; Apiary Program; Limitation on Liability; Appropriations

Description:

Clarifies the registration process for beekeepers with the Department of Agriculture. Requires the Department of Agriculture to provide guidance and support to registered beekeepers to help beekeepers adhere to certain industry standards and best management practices. Establishes a limitation on liability for any registered beekeeper who follows industry standards and best practices. 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.

