

ACT 197

H.B. NO. 83

A Bill for an Act Relating to Improving the Organization and Coordination of Agricultural Programs and Programs Related to Agriculture.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. **Findings and declaration of necessity.** The legislature finds that:

- (1) Agriculture is one of Hawaii's most important industries. It has shaped Hawaii's past, maintains an important role in our present economy, and has impressive potential for the future. However, it is faced with both problems and opportunities of enormous significance to the continuing success of our economy and way of life. Events of the immediate

- future will determine whether agriculture can continue to provide a basis for a sound and thriving economy that will utilize our natural and human resources in harmony with the Hawaiian way of life.
- (2) The maintenance of agriculture as an important part of the Hawaiian economy and way of life and its orderly growth and development depend to a great extent on a planned and concerted effort to utilize our enormous natural and human resources. A well coordinated effort is required to ensure the optimum benefits from the utilization of our resources.
 - (3) The planning and development efforts required in the agriculture sphere dictate the need for a deep and broad involvement of state government. Many of our natural and human resources can be fully utilized with the assistance of state government. Responsibility and authority for agriculture and agriculture-related programs already exist in the various agencies of state government to address the problems and opportunities of Hawaiian agriculture. However, an effective mechanism is necessary to bring about an orderly approach to agricultural programs that will unify and coordinate the responsibilities and programs of the various agencies of state government.
 - (4) The problems and opportunities in agriculture require that the efforts of the state government are effectively coordinated. It is essential that the total efforts of the various agencies in the planning, research, development, and implementation of state agriculture and agriculture-related programs be effectively coordinated in order that the most effective and efficient use of resources is ensured. The means by which effective coordination can be achieved is through the establishment of an agriculture coordinating committee with sufficient authority and at a level which will make possible the coordinated management of all agriculture and agriculture-related programs.

SECTION 2. Establishment of the governor's agriculture coordinating committee. There is established, in the governor's office for administrative purposes, the governor's agriculture coordinating committee, whose membership shall include the administrative director to the governor, who shall be the chairperson, the director of planning and economic development, the chairperson of the board of land and natural resources, the chairperson of the board of agriculture, the director of transportation, the chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission, two farmers one of whom shall be a representative of a recognized nonprofit association of farmers, and the dean of the college of tropical agriculture of the University of Hawaii. All members of the committee shall serve without pay but shall be entitled to reimbursement for necessary expenses while attending meetings and while in the discharge of the duties and responsibilities of the committee.

SECTION 3. Powers and duties. The governor's agriculture coordinating committee shall:

- (1) Prepare and propose to the governor a state agriculture policy which, upon approval of the governor, shall serve as a guide for agricultural

- development in the State. The policy shall include but not be limited to a statement of objectives in the following areas: (A) commercial production, (B) processing, (C) distribution, (D) transportation, (E) marketing, (F) agricultural land and water use, (G) agricultural growth, diversification, and self-sufficiency, (H) agricultural pollution, and (I) agricultural research;
- (2) Coordinate and monitor all state agencies in their duties and responsibilities with respect to agriculture or agriculture-related projects or programs with a view to effect agricultural development in this State as set forth in the state agriculture policy;
 - (3) Coordinate all state agricultural activities as they relate to the federal and county governments, public and private organizations, and commercial enterprises;
 - (4) Coordinate and review (A) the preparation of agriculture and agriculture-related programs and projects proposed by all state agencies for submittal to the governor, (B) the preparation and submission of all departmental budgets as they relate to agriculture, (C) the activities of all departments to ensure timely and efficient implementation of all authorized agriculture and agriculture-related programs;
 - (5) Assist the governor in developing programs, projects, and plans to promote optimal development of agriculture, including criteria to measure program effectiveness;
 - (6) Conduct systematic analysis of all existing and proposed agriculture and agriculture-related programs, including evaluation of program analysis conducted by state agencies relating to agriculture;
 - (7) Recommend to the governor programs which represent the most effective allocation of resources for optimal development of agriculture;
 - (8) As the governor may determine, serve as members of all bodies established by the governor to consider allocation of state funds for agriculture or agriculture-related purposes;
 - (9) Contract for services when required for implementation of this Act; and
 - (10) Perform such other services as may be required by the governor and the legislature.

SECTION 4. Annual report. The governor's agriculture coordinating committee shall prepare and submit an annual report on its implementation of this Act to the governor and the legislature prior to each regular session.

SECTION 5. Personnel. The chairperson of the governor's agriculture coordinating committee may hire necessary personnel to carry out the purposes of this Act without regard to chapters 76 and 77.

SECTION 6. Appropriation. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1, or so much thereof as may be necessary, for the purposes of this Act, to be expended by the office of the governor.

SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved June 4, 1976.)