

ACT 235

S.B. NO. 2728

A Bill for an Act Making an Appropriation for Agricultural Research and Development.

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

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that agriculture is one of the State's most important industries and a vital component of the State's economic base. The legislature also finds that although sugar will continue to be Hawaii's primary export product, the sugar industry is downsizing in an effort to remain efficient, productive, and cost-effective. With the downsizing of the sugar industry, agricultural research is becoming increasingly more important for maintaining and improving current crops grown across the State and for developing new crops so that the State can take the best economic advantage of the thousands of acres of prime agricultural lands that are becoming available. The legislature also finds that the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association is seeking to transfer the ownership of its experiment station to a new organization, the Hawaii Agriculture Research Corporation (HARC). Under HARC ownership, the experiment station will be capable of conducting proven, results-oriented, scientific research for the State's agriculture industry and will be a key resource in the State's efforts to strengthen the agriculture industry, revitalize the economy, and maintain and create new employment opportunities in rural areas.

The purpose of this Act is to provide the necessary funds to maintain the current staff and resources of the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association's experiment station and to effectuate its orderly transfer to the Hawaii Agriculture Research Corporation.

SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,000,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 1994-1995, for agricultural research, development, and extension to be performed by the experiment station of the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association or the successor organization to the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association,

in consultation with the department of agriculture; provided that no funds shall be released unless funds are matched dollar-for-dollar in cash or in-kind donations, or a combination of both, by the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association or its successor organization.

SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$100,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 1994-1995, for pineapple research, development, and extension also to be performed by the experiment station of the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association or the successor organization to the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association, in consultation with the department of agriculture; provided that no funds shall be released unless funds are matched dollar-for-dollar in cash or in-kind donations, or a combination of both, by the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association or its successor organization.

SECTION 4. The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department of agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 1994.

(Approved June 22, 1994.)