

ACT 282

S.B. NO. 2278

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 one of Hawaii's primary export products, the sugar industry is downsizing to remain viable and competitive. With the continued downsizing of the sugar industry, agricultural research and development has become increasingly 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 now available, including state lands formerly in sugarcane production.

The legislature also finds that the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center has been working with other agriculturists, landowners, and the State to develop new agricultural opportunities on these prime agricultural lands across the State. In 1996, the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center will begin a second century of conducting proven production-oriented, results-driven scientific research for the benefit of the State's agriculture industry and will continue to be a key resource in the State's efforts to strengthen and improve the agriculture industry, revitalize the economy, and maintain and create employment opportunities, especially in rural areas.

The purpose of this Act is to provide the necessary funds to assist in maintaining current minimum levels of agricultural research at the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center.

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 1996-1997, for agricultural research and development to be performed by the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center; provided that no research funds for specific agricultural commodities with an annual statewide crop sales of \$10,000,000 or greater, based on the most recent statistics available for the department of agriculture, shall be expended unless matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis; and provided further that no funds for agricultural research for other agricultural commodities shall be expended unless matched on the basis of three dollars from the State for each dollar from the private sector, except that up to \$250,000 may be released unmatched for exploratory agricultural research and development, including, but not limited to, vegetable variety trials, demonstration plantings, and pest management alternatives to chemical control.

SECTION 3. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 1996.

(Approved June 18, 1996.)