

ACT 151

S.B. NO. 375

A Bill for an Act Relating to Agriculture.

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

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii has not developed a plan to transition its agriculture industry, once dominated by sugar and pineapple, to an industry that is beneficial for diversified food crops. While diversified agriculture has increased, industry experts estimate that Hawaii imports approximately eighty-five to ninety per cent of the food that it consumes.

According to a report issued in October 2012 by the office of planning in cooperation with the department of agriculture, entitled “Increased Food Security and Food Self-Sufficiency Strategy: A State Strategic/Functional Plan Prepared in Accordance with HRS Chapter 226 Hawaii State Plan and the Hawaii Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy”, replacing just ten per cent of the food that Hawaii currently imports would retain approximately \$313,000,000 in the State and generate more than two thousand three hundred jobs. Investing in farmland and irrigation infrastructure will bring Hawaii closer to self-sufficiency, and local investments will benefit local residents.

The legislature further finds that the governor has set the policy goal of doubling Hawaii’s food production by 2020. However, details on how to achieve this objective have yet to be identified. Issues such as preserving agricultural land, identifying food crops for local production, and improving irrigation and agricultural infrastructure need immediate attention so that doubling food production can become a realistic objective. Implications of the federal FDA Food Safety Modernization Act, which will have significant effects on local agriculture, must also be addressed. Due to the need to address multiple issues in order

to double local food production and with 2020 less than one year away, this Act sets the goal of doubling local food production by 2030.

The purpose of this Act is to require the department of agriculture, in cooperation with the office of the governor, to develop a strategic plan to achieve the governor's goal of doubling food production and increasing food exports by 2030.

SECTION 2. (a) The department of agriculture, in cooperation with the office of the governor, shall establish a strategic plan that identifies benchmarks for increased food production in Hawaii and increased exports of food crops and value-added agricultural products from Hawaii.

(b) The strategic plan shall identify benchmarks that are quantitatively and qualitatively measurable and the metrics to determine progress toward the following goals:

- (1) Doubling local food production and exports by 2030;
- (2) Identifying food crops that may be grown locally to replace imports and increase exports of food crops and value-added agricultural products from Hawaii;
- (3) Identifying lands for:
 - (A) Producing food crops that may be grown locally to replace imports;
 - (B) Raising livestock; and
 - (C) Developing value-added agricultural products;
- (4) Developing guidance for decisions regarding land acquisition, irrigation, and agricultural infrastructure; and
- (5) Identifying implications and effects of the federal FDA Food Safety and Modernization Act on local food production and export.

(c) The department of agriculture shall submit the strategic plan, including proposed strategies, benchmarks, metrics, and any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2020.

SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the agricultural development and food security special fund the sum of \$100,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 for the purpose of developing a strategic plan outlining strategies, benchmarks, and metrics to achieve the goal of doubling food production in, and increasing food exports out of the State by 2030.

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, 2019.

(Approved June 26, 2019.)