
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that a sustainable food
2 system is one in which producers, retailers, members of the
3 community, non-governmental organizations, and government
4 agencies partner to create a vibrant and resilient local food
5 economy that enhances and sustains the environmental, economic,
6 and social health of the community.

7 The legislature further finds that developing a more
8 sustainable food system for Hawaii represents an opportunity to
9 create a new food economy that integrates the objectives of
10 "green" job creation, sustainable economic development, land
11 stewardship, food security, environmental protection, and
12 climate change resiliency with community health and well-being.

13 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to establish within
14 the department of agriculture the sustainable food systems
15 working group to develop an interagency food systems plan.

16 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the department
17 of agriculture the sustainable food systems working group. The



1 working group shall identify a governance structure and
2 implementation plan for an interagency food systems plan linked
3 to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals for a more
4 sustainable, resilient local food economy that enhances and
5 sustains the environmental, economic, and social health of the
6 community.

7 (b) The sustainable food systems working group shall be
8 composed of the following members:

- 9 (1) One member of the house of representatives, to be
10 selected by the speaker of the house of
11 representatives;
- 12 (2) One member of the senate, to be selected by the
13 president of the senate;
- 14 (3) A representative of the Hawaii tourism authority, to
15 be selected by the president and chief executive
16 officer of the Hawaii tourism authority;
- 17 (4) Two representatives of the University of Hawaii system
18 who have experience in food systems, to be selected by
19 the chairperson of the board of agriculture;



- 1 (5) A representative of the department of agriculture, to
2 be selected by the chairperson of the board of
3 agriculture;
- 4 (6) A representative of the office of climate change,
5 sustainability and resiliency of the city and county
6 of Honolulu, to be selected by the chief resilience
7 officer and executive director of the office of
8 climate change, sustainability and resiliency of the
9 city and county of Honolulu;
- 10 (7) A representative of the department of Native Hawaiian
11 health of the John A. Burns school of medicine of the
12 University of Hawaii, to be selected by the chair of
13 the department of Native Hawaiian health;
- 14 (8) Two members of the Native Hawaiian community, to be
15 selected by the chairperson of the board of
16 agriculture; provided that one of the members shall be
17 a resident of a county other than the city and county
18 of Honolulu;
- 19 (9) A representative of the Hawaii Farm Bureau, to be
20 selected by the executive director of the Hawaii Farm
21 Bureau;



- 1 (10) A representative of the Hawaii Foodbank, to be
2 selected by the president and chief executive officer
3 of the Hawaii Foodbank;
- 4 (11) A representative of the agricultural sector, to be
5 selected by the chairperson of the board of
6 agriculture;
- 7 (12) Four representatives of the agricultural sector, of
8 which each member shall represent one of the counties
9 of Hawaii, Kauai, Maui, or the city and county of
10 Honolulu, to be selected by the respective mayor of
11 each county;
- 12 (13) A representative of the farm-to-school community in
13 Hawaii, to be selected by the chairperson of the board
14 of agriculture;
- 15 (14) A representative of the Hawaii Foodservice Alliance,
16 to be selected by the owner of the Hawaii Foodservice
17 Alliance;
- 18 (15) A representative of the Hawaii Food Industry
19 Association, to be selected by the executive director
20 of the Hawaii Food Industry Association;
- 21 (16) A representative of the Hawaii Farmers Union United;



1 (17) A representative of the Hawaii Fishermen's Alliance
2 for Conservation and Tradition, to be selected by the
3 president of the Hawaii Fishermen's Alliance for
4 Conservation and Tradition; and

5 (18) A representative of the commercial fishing sector of
6 the State, to be selected by the administrator of the
7 department of land and natural resources division of
8 aquatic resources.

9 (c) The chairperson of the board of agriculture shall
10 serve as chair of the sustainable food systems working group.

11 (d) The interagency food systems plan shall address the
12 following:

- 13 (1) Food as a human right and healthy food for all;
- 14 (2) Social equity and food justice;
- 15 (3) Food system resilience;
- 16 (4) Agriculture and food system sustainability;
- 17 (5) Food at the center of a circular economy;
- 18 (6) Sustainable education, workforce development, and fair
19 labor; and
- 20 (7) Good food governance.



1 (e) The sustainable food systems working group shall
2 submit its plan and any recommendations for implementation of
3 the plan, including any proposed legislation, to the legislature
4 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular
5 session of 2025.

6 (f) The department of agriculture shall provide any
7 necessary staff support, including for the preparation of the
8 plan identified in subsection (a), to the sustainable food
9 systems working group.

10 (g) The sustainable food systems working group shall be
11 dissolved on June 30, 2025.

12 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
14 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and
15 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
16 year 2024-2025 for the purpose of establishing the sustainable
17 food systems working group and implementing section 2 of this
18 Act, including coordinating stakeholder meetings; managing
19 public meetings and website data management in accordance with
20 chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statutes; writing and printing the
21 plan; and potentially obtaining services on a fee.



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

3 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
5 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and
6 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
7 year 2024-2025 for full-time equivalent
8 (FTE) sustainability specialist position in the
9 department of agriculture.

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

12 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

13

INTRODUCED BY: *Che Ate*
JAN 19 2023



H.B. NO. 308

Report Title:

Sustainable Food Systems Working Group; Department of Agriculture; Plan; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the sustainable food systems working group within the department of agriculture. Requires the working group to submit a plan, any recommendations for implementing the plan, and any proposed legislation to the legislature. Appropriates funds to establish the working group and develop the plan and for an unspecified number of sustainability specialist positions to be employed by the department of agriculture.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

