

JAN 19 2024

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATED TO AGRICULTURE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that over the past four
2 decades, agriculture in Hawaii has been in decline. Since 1980,
3 the value of all agricultural products in the State has declined
4 by 72.9 per cent. The State's agricultural sector is
5 characterized by its diverse set of crop production, unique
6 tropical island climate, various scaled farming operations,
7 diverse marketing strategies, and statewide efforts to
8 revitalize the State's food systems.

9 The legislature further finds that the biggest threat to
10 the State's food sovereignty is the current dependence upon
11 importation. In the face of climate change and global food
12 production instability, the State's capacity to regather and
13 digest its own agricultural data is a critical function to help
14 the State's farmers and ranchers survive and thrive. However,
15 the efficacy of decision-making, statewide planning, and
16 sustainable growth of the agricultural industry relies heavily
17 upon the availability of timely, reliable, accurate, and



1 comprehensive data. This aspect of the agricultural sector
2 faces significant challenges due to resource constraints that
3 impede further collection, analysis, and dissemination of timely
4 agricultural data.

5 The purpose of this Act is to:

6 (1) Require the department of agriculture to conduct a
7 study on agricultural markets for Hawaii farmers;

8 (2) Appropriate funds for two full-time equivalent (2.0
9 FTE) positions to collect, manipulate, and graph data,
10 and to build an agricultural data dashboard for public
11 consumption; and

12 (3) Appropriate funds for the one year study on
13 agricultural markets for Hawaii farmers.

14 SECTION 2. (a) The department of agriculture shall
15 conduct a study on agricultural markets for Hawaii farmers, that
16 includes strategies and actions that support agriculture and a
17 robust agricultural sector in the State.

18 (b) The department of agriculture shall submit a report of
19 its findings and recommendations, including any proposed
20 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
21 to the convening of the regular session of 2025.



1 SECTION 3. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of
2 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,
3 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the
4 appropriations contained in Act 164, Regular Session of 2023,
5 and this Act will cause the state general fund expenditure
6 ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by
7 \$ or per cent. This current declaration takes
8 into account general fund appropriations authorized for fiscal
9 year 2024-2025 in Act 164, Regular Session of 2023, and this Act
10 only. The reasons for exceeding the general fund expenditure
11 ceiling are that:

- 12 (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to
13 serve the public interest; and
14 (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs
15 addressed by this Act.

16 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
18 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for
19 the establishment of one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) position
20 data scientist, statistician, or market analyst to conduct data
21 analysis and one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) position field



1 researcher to collect relevant agricultural data for the
2 agricultural statistics services to build an agricultural data
3 dashboard for public consumption.

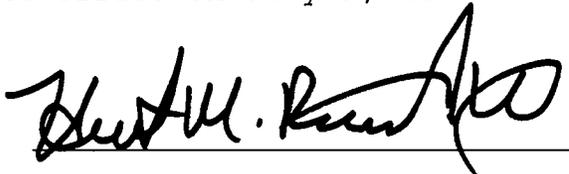
4 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
5 agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

6 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$200,000 or so much
8 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for a one
9 year study of agricultural markets for Hawaii farmers.

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

12 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

13

INTRODUCED BY: 



S.B. NO. 2790

Report Title:

DOA; Agricultural Markets Study; Agricultural Statistics Services; Report; Expenditure Ceiling; Appropriations

Description:

Appropriates funds for the Department of Agriculture to hire two FTE positions to collect, manipulate, and graph data and to build an agricultural data dashboard for public consumption and a one year study on agricultural markets for Hawaii farmers. Requires a report to the Legislature. Declares that the general fund expenditure ceiling is exceeded.

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

