A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE LOANS.

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

| 1 | SECT | ION 1. Section 155-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is |
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| 2 | amended t | o read as follows: |
| 3 | "§15 | 5-4 Powers and duties of the department. The |
| 4 | departmen | t of agriculture shall have the following powers: |
| 5 | (1) | Employ a secretary, who may be exempt from chapter 76, |
| 6 | | and other full-time and part-time employees, subject |
| 7 | | to chapter 76, as are necessary to effectuate the |
| 8 | | purposes of this chapter, subject further to the |
| 9 | | limitation of funds in the agricultural loan reserve |
| 10 | | fund; |
| 11 | (2) | Designate agents throughout the State as may be |
| 12 | | necessary for property appraisal, the consideration of |
| 13 | | loan applications, and the supervision of farming |
| 14 | | operations of borrowers. The agents may be |
| 15 | | compensated for their services at rates the department |
| 16 | | in its discretion may fix; |
| 17 | (3) | Initiate and carry on a continuing research and |
| 18 | | education program, [utilizing] using and coordinating |

| 1 | | the services and facilities of other government |
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| 2 | | agencies and private lenders to the maximum, to inform |
| 3 | | qualified farmers concerning procedures for obtaining |
| 4 | | loans and to inform private lenders concerning the |
| 5 | | advantages of making loans to qualified farmers; |
| 6 | (4) | Cooperate with private and federal government farm |
| 7 | | loan sources to increase the amount of loan funds |
| 8 | | available to qualified farmers in the State; |
| 9 | (5) | Assist individual qualified farmers in obtaining loans |
| 10 | | from other sources. Insofar as available funds and |
| 11 | | staff permit, counsel and assist individual farmers in |
| 12 | | establishing and maintaining proper records to prove |
| 13 | | their farming ability for loan purposes; |
| 14 | (6) | Insure loans made to qualified farmers and food |
| 15 | | manufacturers by private lenders under section 155-5; |
| 16 | (7) | Participate in loans made to qualified farmers and |
| 17 | | food manufacturers by private lenders under section |
| 18 | | 155-6; |
| 19 | (8) | Make direct loans to qualified farmers and food |
| 20 | | manufacturers under section 155-8; |
| 21 | (9) | Borrow money for loan purposes; |
| 22 | (10) | Assign and sell mortgages; |

| 1 | (11) | Hold title to, maintain, use, manage, operate, sell, |
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| 2 | | lease, or otherwise dispose of personal and real |
| 3 | | property acquired by way of foreclosure, voluntary |
| 4 | | surrender, or otherwise, to recover moneys loaned; |
| 5 | (12) | Sue and be sued in the name of the "State of Hawaii"; |
| 6 | (13) | Exercise incidental powers as are deemed necessary or |
| 7 | | requisite to fulfill its duty in carrying out the |
| 8 | | purposes of this chapter; |
| 9 | (14) | Delegate authority to its chairperson to approve |
| 10 | | loans, where the requested amount plus any principal |
| 11 | | balance on existing loans to the applicant, does not |
| 12 | | exceed [$$25,000$] $$75,000$ of state funds; and |
| 13 | (15) | Adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91 necessary for the |
| 14 | | purpose of this chapter." |
| 15 | SECT | ION 2. Section 219-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is |
| 16 | amended by | y amending subsection (b) to read as follows: |
| 17 | "(b) | The chairperson may approve loans, where the requested |
| 18 | amount[7] | plus any principal balance on existing loans to the |
| 19 | applicant, | does not exceed [$\$25,000$] $\$75,000$ of state funds." |
| 20 | SECTI | ION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed |
| 21 | and strick | den. New statutory material is underscored. |
| 22 | SECTI | ION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval. |

SB 7235 501

Report Title:

Agricultural Loans; Limit

HPI

Description:

Increases from \$25,000 to \$75,000 the authority of the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture to approve agricultural and aquacultural loans. (SB2235 HD1)