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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that agriculture plays a  
2 vital role in Hawaii's efforts to become more self-sustainable.  
3 Agriculture not only contributes to the State's economy by  
4 providing employment opportunities, products for export, and a  
5 stage for tourism, but also performs a public service by helping  
6 to perpetuate a rural lifestyle for Hawaii's residents who in  
7 turn provide stewardship for Hawaii's lands and water.

8           With the demise of the plantations that once controlled  
9 vast acres of pineapple and sugar cane fields, there is a need  
10 to promote the diversification of Hawaii's agriculture industry.  
11 Hawaii must also diversify its economic base beyond a reliance  
12 on tourism. A revived and revitalized agriculture industry  
13 promises not only to achieve this objective but also to sustain  
14 and stabilize Hawaii's food supply and protect the open space  
15 and lifestyle that both residents and visitors value.

16           Currently, Hawaii's agriculture and value-added product  
17 industry contributes \$2,400,000,000 to the State's economy and  
18 employs more than thirty-eight thousand people. During the past



1 twenty years, the value of diversified agriculture in Hawaii has  
2 more than doubled, reaching a record \$370,900,000 in farm-level  
3 revenues in 2002.

4 The agriculture industry should continue to explore new  
5 opportunities as prime agricultural land becomes available. At  
6 present, about one hundred thousand acres of former sugar cane  
7 and pineapple land--prime agricultural land--lie fallow. Recent  
8 estimates suggest that if all this land could be put to  
9 productive use through successful agricultural ventures, an  
10 additional \$1,700,000,000 to \$4,400,000,000 could be infused  
11 into the State's economy.

12 To take advantage of these opportunities and to provide the  
13 necessary support for the overall transition of Hawaii's  
14 agriculture industry from plantation agriculture to diversified  
15 agriculture, more resources must be directed toward agricultural  
16 research and development. Agricultural research is key to  
17 maintaining Hawaii's competitiveness in an agricultural market  
18 that is becoming increasingly global.

19 The legislature believes that the Hawaii Agriculture  
20 Research Center, the University of Hawaii college of tropical  
21 agriculture and human resources, the department of agriculture,  
22 and the United States Department of Agriculture Pacific Basin



1 Agricultural Research Center should work collaboratively to  
2 expand their agricultural research efforts. These research  
3 organizations are critical to the State's efforts to strengthen  
4 and improve the agriculture industry, expand employment  
5 opportunities for residents, and revitalize the economy.

6 The legislature further finds that the Hawaii Farm Bureau  
7 Federation is a nonprofit agricultural organization representing  
8 the interests of, and exemplifying a strong commitment to, the  
9 agriculture industry in Hawaii and can ensure that agricultural  
10 research and marketing meet the needs of local farmers and  
11 ranchers. The Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation has frequently  
12 partnered with institutions like the Hawaii Agriculture Research  
13 Center, the University of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture  
14 and human resources, and the department of agriculture on many  
15 research and market development projects. The Hawaii Farm  
16 Bureau Federation has also worked with many other kinds of  
17 commodity organizations, including sugar, pineapple, papaya,  
18 macadamia, coffee, flower, fruit, vegetable, aquaculture, seed  
19 corn, forestry, and livestock organizations to formulate  
20 research needs for the entire agriculture industry.

21 Therefore, the legislature finds that the most logical  
22 organization to oversee and expend funding for agricultural



1 research and market development in the State is the Hawaii Farm  
2 Bureau Federation.

3 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for a grant  
4 to the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation to conduct agricultural  
5 research and development.

6 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$2,000,000 or so much  
8 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 for a  
9 grant, pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for the  
10 Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation to conduct agricultural research  
11 and development.

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

14 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.



**Report Title:**

Agricultural Research and Development; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds for a grant for the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation to conduct agricultural research and development.  
(SD1)

