
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY.

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

1 SECTION 1. In the wake of the global recession that saw
2 Hawaii's unemployment rate triple between 2007 and 2009, the
3 legislature finds that rebuilding and diversifying Hawaii's
4 economy to create new jobs, to put people back to work, and to
5 build a strong economic base that carries Hawaii into the
6 twenty-first century is a key priority.

7 The legislature also finds that Hawaii is dangerously
8 dependent on imported food. As the most geographically isolated
9 state in the country, Hawaii imports approximately ninety-two
10 per cent of its food, according to the Pacific Regional
11 Integrated Sciences and Assessments Program. Currently, Hawaii
12 has a supply of fresh produce for no more than ten days. Ninety
13 per cent of the beef, sixty-seven per cent of the fresh
14 vegetables, sixty-five per cent of the fresh fruits, and eighty
15 per cent of all milk purchased in the State are imported. The
16 legislature further finds that Hawaii's reliance on out-of-state
17 sources of food places residents directly at risk of food
18 shortages in the event of natural disasters, economic



1 disruption, and other external factors beyond the State's
2 control.

3 The legislature further finds that each food product
4 imported to Hawaii is a lost opportunity for local economic
5 growth. The legislature notes that according to the University
6 of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and human resources,
7 an increase in the production and sale of Hawaii-grown
8 agricultural commodities would contribute to significant job
9 creation. The research shows that replacing ten per cent of
10 current food imports with locally grown food will create a total
11 of two thousand three hundred jobs. The legislature thus finds
12 that increasing the amount of locally grown food by as little as
13 ten per cent could keep hundreds of millions of dollars
14 circulating within Hawaii's economy, stimulate growth, and
15 create thousands of new jobs. Such diversification would help
16 make Hawaii's economy more resilient to worldwide events.

17 The legislature further finds that increasing local
18 production will ensure that Hawaii has food sources that will be
19 more resilient to global supply disruptions, will be better able
20 to cope with increasing global demand and shortages of
21 commodities such as oil, and will be better prepared to deal
22 with potential global food scarcities.



1 The legislature notes that the nutrients in fresh fruits
2 and vegetables degrade rapidly and recognizes that increased
3 availability of local food typically ensures access to fresher,
4 later-picked produce with greater vitamin content and higher
5 nutritional value. A more robust local agricultural sector will
6 lead to more consistency and a likely increase in nutritional
7 choices for local residents. The legislature believes
8 communities will thrive by having a steady, affordable stream of
9 local products that act as staple foods to residents and by
10 having their food dollars recycled and reinvested in the local
11 economy.

12 The legislature further finds that by establishing a food
13 sustainability standard, Hawaii will be able to ensure a long-
14 term commitment of resources and investment to producing a
15 significant portion of Hawaii's food for local consumption.
16 Such a standard will also create a framework for long term
17 planning, including land use planning, resource allocation, and
18 tax incentives and will otherwise direct Hawaii toward a more
19 robust and sustainable future.

20 In summary, the legislature finds that establishing an
21 increase in the production of local food as a key state priority
22 will lead to the diversification of Hawaii's economy, create new



1 jobs, advance Hawaii's long term economic stability, and boost
2 the food security of the people of Hawaii.

3 The purpose of this Act is to establish a statewide food
4 sustainability standard program.

5 SECTION 2. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by
6 adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read
7 as follows:

8 **"CHAPTER**

9 **FOOD SUSTAINABILITY**

10 § -1 **Definitions.** As used in this chapter, unless the
11 context otherwise requires:

12 "Department" means the department of agriculture.

13 "Farm cash receipts" means the gross revenue of farms
14 derived from the sale of Hawaii-grown products including
15 livestock, dairy, and edible crops as determined by the
16 department on an annual basis.

17 "Food sustainability standard" means the volume of food
18 commodities sold in the State, measured by farm cash receipts or
19 as otherwise determined by the department, that are grown in the
20 State.

21 § -2 **Department of agriculture responsibilities.** (a)

22 The department shall be responsible for measuring and analyzing



1 the amount of food livestock, dairy, and edible crop commodities
2 grown and sold in the State on an annual basis. This
3 information shall be made publicly available in accordance with
4 the provisions of chapter 92F.

5 (b) The department shall, on an annual basis and in
6 conjunction with the department of business, economic
7 development, and tourism, identify key food commodities to be
8 targeted for assistance in developing an increased local market
9 share.

10 (c) The department shall be responsible for planning and
11 adopting the necessary incentives to ensure that the food
12 sustainability standard established under this chapter is met or
13 exceeded.

14 (d) The department shall submit an annual report to the
15 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
16 each regular session on the status and progress of the
17 department's efforts to effectuate this chapter and any
18 recommended policy changes or necessary legislation.

19 (e) The department may adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91
20 to effectuate the purposes of this chapter.

21 § -3 Food sustainability standard. (a) A statewide
22 food sustainability standard to be achieved by the year 2020 is



1 hereby established that requires the State to increase the
2 amount of food grown in the State for local consumption by at
3 least double the amount grown in 2014; provided the department
4 shall measure this amount by the farm cash receipts for
5 livestock, dairy, and crops without regard to inflation
6 adjustments, or by a comparable measurement as determined by the
7 department.

8 (b) The department shall submit a report and
9 recommendations to the legislature no later than twenty days
10 prior to the convening of the 2020 regular session on how to
11 raise the food sustainability standard over the following
12 decade."

13 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2030.



Report Title:

Food Sustainability; Department of Agriculture

Description:

Creates a new chapter in the Hawaii Revised Statutes requiring the department of agriculture to develop a food sustainability standard to promote local food production to help diversify the local economy. Effective July 1, 2030. (SD1)

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