

JAN 25 2012

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

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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 21<sup>st</sup>  
6 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 United States Department  
11 of Agriculture. Currently, Hawaii has a supply of fresh produce  
12 for no more than ten days. Ninety per cent of the beef, sixty-  
13 seven per cent of the fresh vegetables, sixty-five per cent of  
14 the fresh fruits, and eighty per cent of all milk purchased in  
15 the State are imported. The legislature finds that Hawaii's  
16 reliance on out-of-state sources of food places residents  
17 directly at risk of food shortages in the event of natural



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

3       The legislature believes that each food product imported to  
4 Hawaii is a lost opportunity for local economic growth. The  
5 legislature notes that according to the University of Hawaii  
6 college of tropical agriculture and human resources, an increase  
7 in the production and sale of Hawaii-grown agricultural  
8 commodities would contribute to significant job creation. The  
9 research shows that replacing ten per cent of current food  
10 imports will create a total of two thousand three hundred jobs.

11       The legislature thus finds that increasing the amount of  
12 locally grown food by as little as ten per cent could keep  
13 hundreds of millions of dollars circulating within Hawaii's  
14 economy, stimulate growth, and create thousands of new jobs.  
15 Such diversification would help make Hawaii's economy more  
16 resilient to worldwide events.

17       Further, the legislature finds that increasing local  
18 production will ensure that Hawaii's food sources will be more  
19 resilient to global supply disruptions, better able to cope with  
20 increasing global demand and shortages of commodities such as  
21 oil, and better prepared to deal with potential global food  
22 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 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 towards 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 SECTION 2. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by  
4 adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read  
5 as follows:

6 "CHAPTER

7 FOOD SUSTAINABILITY

8 § -1 Definitions. As used in this chapter, unless the  
9 context otherwise requires:

10 "Department" means the department of agriculture.

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

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

19 § -2 Department of agriculture responsibilities. (a)  
20 The department shall be responsible for measuring and analyzing  
21 the amount of food livestock, dairy, and edible crop commodities



1 grown and sold in the State on an annual basis. This  
2 information shall be made publicly available in accordance with  
3 the provisions of chapter 92F.

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

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

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

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

20 **§ -3 Food sustainability standard.** (a) A statewide  
21 food sustainability standard to be achieved by 2020 is hereby  
22 established that requires the State to increase the amount of



1 food grown in the State for local consumption by at least double  
2 the amount grown in 2013; provided the department shall measure  
3 this amount by the farm cash receipts for livestock, dairy, and  
4 crops without regard to inflation adjustments, or by a  
5 comparable measurement as determined by the department.

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

11 **§ -4 Prohibitions.** After December 31, 2019, if the  
12 department determines in any particular year that the food  
13 sustainability standard has not been achieved, notwithstanding  
14 any other law to the contrary, no discretionary approvals shall  
15 be granted by the State or its political subdivisions for a  
16 proposed reclassification of an agricultural or conservation  
17 district boundary of lands greater than twenty-five acres in  
18 size until the department determines the food sustainability  
19 standard has been met."


20 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.  
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INTRODUCED BY:

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S.B. NO. 2915

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# S.B. NO. 2915

**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.

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

