

JAN 29 2015

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL LANDS.

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

1       SECTION 1. Article XI, section 3 of the Hawaii State  
2 Constitution establishes the State's duty to "conserve and  
3 protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture,  
4 increase agricultural self-sufficiency, and assure the  
5 availability of agriculturally suitable lands" and provides  
6 specialized protections for lands identified as important  
7 agricultural lands. In service of this duty, the legislature  
8 enacted Act 183, Session Laws of Hawaii 2005, which was codified  
9 in part III of chapter 205, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

10       Act 183 directed each county to work with government and  
11 community stakeholders to, within sixty months of receipt of  
12 state funds for the purpose, identify and map potential  
13 important agricultural lands within its jurisdiction and make  
14 recommendations to the state land use commission for the  
15 designation of these lands as important agricultural lands.  
16 Once designated, agricultural operations on important  
17 agricultural lands are eligible for a variety of state and



1 county assistance and incentive programs including grants and  
2 other funding assistance, tax incentives, favorable  
3 infrastructure and permit requirements, and farm and business  
4 education assistance. The legislature finds that, to date, the  
5 counties have not received state funds to assist with their  
6 identification and mapping duties under Act 183.

7 The purpose of this Act is to fully implement Act 183 in  
8 accordance with the State's constitutional duty to protect  
9 important agricultural lands by providing funds to the counties  
10 for the identification and mapping of important agricultural  
11 lands.

12 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the  
15 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
16 2016-2017 for grants-in-aid to the counties for the  
17 identification and mapping of important agricultural lands  
18 pursuant to section 205-47, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to be  
19 allocated as follows:

20 (1) \$ to the county of Hawaii;

21 (2) \$ to the city and county of Honolulu;



1 (3) \$ to the county of Kauai; and

2 (4) \$ to the county of Maui.

3 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
4 of business, economic development, and tourism for the purposes  
5 of this Act.

6 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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# S.B. NO. 1289

**Report Title:**

Important Agricultural Lands; Counties; Grants-in-aid.

**Description:**

Appropriates funds for grants-in-aid to the counties for assistance with identifying and mapping important agricultural lands.

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

