

JAN 23 2015

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 the State of Hawaii
2 imports approximately 90 per cent of its food and is vulnerable
3 to potential shipping and other disruptions. The people of
4 Hawaii have repeatedly shown over the years that sustainable
5 agriculture and local production are priorities that they
6 support and value.

7 The legislature also finds that the agribusiness
8 development corporation manages over 20,000 acres of public
9 agricultural lands and has the significant potential of shaping
10 the State's agricultural public policy toward the goal of
11 supporting sustainable agriculture and food self-sufficiency.
12 The lack of affordable agricultural land with long-term leases
13 is often cited as a key inhibitor of the growth and expansion of
14 local agriculture. Therefore it is in the public's best
15 interest, and vital to achieving an increased level of food
16 security, that the agribusiness development corporation make the
17 support of sustainable agriculture and food security its top



1 priority and immediately develop and implement a plan to
2 accomplish this goal.

3 SECTION 2. (a) The agribusiness development corporation
4 shall establish as its primary mission supporting and increasing
5 sustainable agriculture and local food production in a manner
6 that contributes to the health of Hawaii residents, protects the
7 natural environment, enhances soil and water quality, and
8 preserves and protects existing agricultural lands. "Local food
9 production" means crops, livestock, poultry, and other foods
10 that are grown and raised on in Hawaii primarily for consumption
11 by Hawaii residents and visitors.

12 (b) The agribusiness development corporation shall
13 establish a sustainable agriculture and local food production
14 plan and begin implementing the plan within twelve months from
15 the effective date of this Act. The development plan shall
16 include consultation with stakeholders experienced in
17 sustainable agricultural practices and shall also include
18 provisions that encourage partnerships with county governments.
19 The plan shall give preference to locally owned and operated
20 agricultural operations.



1 (c) The agribusiness development corporation shall submit
2 the sustainable agriculture and local food production plan to
3 the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening
4 of the regular session of 2016. The agribusiness development
5 corporation shall submit an annual report to the legislature on
6 the progress of the sustainable agriculture and local food
7 production plan, no later than twenty days prior to the
8 convening of each regular session. The annual report shall
9 include:

10 (1) A summary of all lands managed by the agribusiness
11 development corporation; and

12 (2) A breakdown showing the various categories of
13 agricultural use.

14 (d) The agribusiness development corporation, by
15 December 31, 2025, shall lease a minimum of 50 per cent of lands
16 controlled by the agribusiness development corporation to
17 operations that support the sustainable agriculture and local
18 food production plan and whose primary business is the
19 production of food for local consumption in Hawaii.
20



1 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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Report Title:

Agribusiness Development Corporation; Sustainable Agriculture and Local Food Production Plan

Description:

Requires the agribusiness development corporation to make increasing agriculture and local food production its primary mission, establish a sustainable agriculture and local food production plan, submit annual reports to the legislature, and lease 50 percent of its land to operations that support increasing agriculture and local food production within the next ten years.

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