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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR A DIVERSIFIED AGRICULTURAL PARK.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that agriculture  
2 continues to play a very important role in the State's economy,  
3 adding \$2,900,000,000 to the State's annual gross state product  
4 and generating some forty-two thousand direct and indirect jobs.  
5 Although the pineapple and sugar industries have declined over  
6 the past several decades, the opportunity exists for smaller  
7 farms growing diversified and sustainable crops to grow and fill  
8 this void, with their agricultural products being sold not only  
9 in the State's marketplaces but also in marketplaces around the  
10 world. One crop that could help fill this gap is industrial  
11 hemp, which the University of Hawaii has found to have the  
12 potential to be very successful in this State. There are  
13 numerous other crops that could also play a large role in the  
14 State's economy.

15           The growth of many smaller farms would also provide  
16 numerous new job opportunities for local workers across a wide



1 array of job classifications, while also helping to maintain the  
2 State's existing green spaces.

3       The department of agriculture currently administers ten  
4 agricultural parks on the islands of Oahu, Hawaii, Kauai, and  
5 Molokai. Through these agricultural parks, the department makes  
6 land available for small farmers to lease at a reasonable cost  
7 for a long-term tenure. Farmers taking advantage of this  
8 program are engaged in the production of diversified  
9 agricultural crops or aquaculture and are small-scale  
10 enterprises, farming no more than twenty acres each. The  
11 legislature finds that agricultural parks provide an excellent  
12 opportunity to support local farmers who engage in diversified  
13 agriculture and create valuable jobs.

14       With the recent closure of the State's last sugar  
15 plantation on the island of Maui, and the expressed desire of  
16 Maui residents to continue to support agriculture on the island,  
17 the legislature believes that Maui is an appropriate place to  
18 nurture the growth of small, sustainable farms that would be  
19 able to employ some of the agricultural workers who have been  
20 affected by the plantation's closure.



1 The purpose of this Act is to support sustainable farming,  
 2 diversified agriculture, and job creation by appropriating funds  
 3 for the acquisition of land, planning, design, and construction  
 4 of an agricultural park in South Maui that could be used for  
 5 diversified crops, including industrial hemp.

6 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
 7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
 8 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 for the  
 9 acquisition of land, planning, design, and construction of an  
 10 agricultural park in South Maui that could be used for  
 11 diversified crops, including industrial hemp.

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, 2017.  
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INTRODUCED BY:

Cal It

Neely  
Neves

Malapuu

Richard

Joy de Costa

JAN 20 2017



# H.B. NO. 446

**Report Title:**

Maui; Diversified Agriculture; Industrial Hemp; Agricultural Park; Appropriation

**Description:**

Makes an appropriation for the acquisition of land, planning, design, and construction of an agricultural park in South Maui.

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