

JAN 20 2017

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 agricultural theft
2 and agricultural vandalism are constant worries for farmers and
3 ranchers. Given the broad acreage that many farming operations
4 encompass, it is often difficult for farmers to police their
5 entire operations at all times. Furthermore, vigilance at night
6 after work hours may be challenging because not all farmers and
7 ranchers are able to live on or near the fields where they work.
8 All of these factors make agricultural operations easy prey for
9 theft or vandalism.

10 The legislature also finds that the county of Hawaii is
11 known as the breadbasket of the State. However, agricultural
12 theft or agricultural vandalism has been a constant threat for
13 farmers and ranchers on the island, increasing the cost of
14 production and making it more difficult for farming operations
15 to be successful.

16 The purpose of this Act is to establish a two-year
17 agricultural theft pilot project to focus on investigating and



1 prosecuting agricultural theft or agricultural vandalism in the
2 county of Hawaii.

3 SECTION 2. (a) The department of agriculture shall:

4 (1) Establish a two-year agricultural theft pilot project
5 to focus on investigating and prosecuting agricultural
6 theft or agricultural vandalism;

7 (2) Partner with the county of Hawaii to hire an
8 enforcement officer within the prosecuting attorney's
9 office; and

10 (3) No later than January 1, 2019, assess the
11 implementation of the pilot project including the
12 pilot project's effectiveness for:

13 (A) Identifying the number of convictions for
14 agricultural theft or agricultural vandalism;

15 (B) Identifying best practices for prosecuting
16 perpetrators of agricultural theft or
17 agricultural vandalism;

18 (C) Identifying areas where agricultural theft or
19 agricultural vandalism are most prevalent;

20 (D) Identifying best practices for preventing
21 agricultural theft or agricultural vandalism; and



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1 (E) Making recommendations for a statewide program to
 2 address agricultural theft or agricultural
 3 vandalism.

4 (b) Based on the department of agriculture's assessment of
 5 the agricultural theft pilot project, the department shall
 6 determine whether to continue, expand, or end the pilot project.

7 (c) The department of agriculture shall submit a report of
 8 its findings and recommendations, including any proposed
 9 legislation, to the legislature no later than December 31, 2018.

10 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
 11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
 12 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 as a
 13 grant-in-aid to the office of the prosecuting attorney, county
 14 of Hawaii to assist the department of agriculture in
 15 implementing a two-year agricultural theft pilot project.

16 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
 17 agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

18 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.

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S.B. NO. 239

Report Title:

Agricultural Theft Pilot Project; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the department of agriculture to establish a two-year agricultural theft pilot project to focus on investigating and prosecuting agricultural theft or agricultural vandalism in the county of Hawaii. Appropriates funds as a grant-in-aid to the office of the prosecuting attorney, county of Hawaii, to assist in implementing the pilot project.

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