

JAN 20 2017

S.B. NO. 449

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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 protections for lands identified as important agricultural  
7 lands. In service of this duty, the legislature enacted Act  
8 183, Session Laws of Hawaii 2005, which was codified in part III  
9 of chapter 205, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

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



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

7 The purpose of this Act is to 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 \$250,000 or so much  
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the  
15 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
16 2018-2019 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) \$62,500 to the county of Hawaii;  
21 (2) \$62,500 to the city and county of Honolulu;





# S.B. NO. 449

**Report Title:**

Hawaii State Association of Counties Package; Important  
Agricultural Lands; Appropriations

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to the counties to identify and map important  
agricultural lands. Appropriations.

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not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

