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

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



1           The purpose of this Act is to establish a two-year  
2 agricultural theft and vandalism pilot project to examine the  
3 effectiveness of prosecuting agricultural theft and vandalism  
4 cases in the county of Hawaii.

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

6           (1) Establish a two-year agricultural theft and vandalism  
7 pilot project to examine and assess the effectiveness  
8 of prosecuting agricultural theft and agricultural  
9 vandalism cases in the county of Hawaii;

10          (2) Partner with the county of Hawaii to hire an  
11 enforcement officer within the prosecuting attorney's  
12 office or any other law enforcement agency; and

13          (3) No later than January 1, 2019, assess the  
14 implementation of the pilot project, including the  
15 pilot project's effectiveness in:

16           (A) Identifying the number of convictions for  
17 agricultural theft and agricultural vandalism;

18           (B) Identifying best practices for prosecuting  
19 perpetrators of agricultural theft and  
20 agricultural vandalism;



1 (C) Identifying areas where agricultural theft and  
2 agricultural vandalism are most prevalent;

3 (D) Identifying best practices for preventing  
4 agricultural theft and agricultural vandalism;  
5 and

6 (E) Making recommendations for a statewide program to  
7 address agricultural theft and agricultural  
8 vandalism.

9 (b) Based on the department of agriculture's assessment of  
10 the agricultural theft and vandalism pilot project, the  
11 department shall determine whether to continue, expand, or end  
12 the pilot project.

13 (c) The department of agriculture shall submit a report of  
14 its findings and recommendations, including any proposed  
15 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior  
16 to the convening of the regular session of 2018.

17 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
19 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the  
20 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year



1 2018-2019 for the purposes of establishing and implementing a  
2 two-year agricultural theft and vandalism pilot project.

3 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
4 of agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

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

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JAN 20 2017



# H.B. NO. 783

**Report Title:**

Agricultural Theft and Vandalism Pilot Project; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes a two-year agricultural theft and vandalism pilot project to examine the effectiveness of prosecuting agricultural theft and agricultural vandalism in the county of Hawaii.  
Appropriates funds.

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