
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 and
10 vandalism.

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



- 1 (C) Identifying areas where agricultural theft and
2 vandalism are most prevalent;
- 3 (D) Identifying best practices for preventing
4 agricultural theft and vandalism; and
- 5 (E) Making recommendations for a statewide program to
6 address agricultural theft and vandalism.

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

11 (c) The department of agriculture shall submit a report of
12 its findings and recommendations, including any proposed
13 legislation, to the legislature no later than December 31, 2019.

14 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
16 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and
17 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
18 year 2018-2019 for the purposes of establishing and implementing
19 a two-year agricultural theft and vandalism pilot project.

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



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



Report Title:

Agricultural Theft and Vandalism Pilot Project; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the department of agriculture to establish 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. (SD1)

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