

JAN 19 2018

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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. As part of its duty, the legislature enacted Act 183,  
8       Session Laws of Hawaii 2005, which was codified in part III of  
9       chapter 205, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

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



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

6 The purpose of this Act is to implement Act 183 in  
7 accordance with the State's constitutional duty to protect  
8 important agricultural lands by providing funds to the counties  
9 for the identification and mapping of important agricultural  
10 lands.

11 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$250,000 or so much  
13 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for  
14 grants-in-aid to the counties for the identification and mapping  
15 of important agricultural lands pursuant to section 205-47,  
16 Hawaii Revised Statutes, to be allocated as follows:

- 17 (1) \$62,500 to the county of Hawaii;  
18 (2) \$62,500 to the city and county of Honolulu;  
19 (3) \$62,500 to the county of Kauai; and  
20 (4) \$62,500 to the county of Maui.



# S.B. NO. 2168

1       The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
2 business, economic development, and tourism for the purposes of  
3 this Act.

4       SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

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INTRODUCED BY:

  
By Request



# S.B. NO. 2168

**Report Title:**

Hawaii State Association of Counties Package; Important  
Agricultural Lands; Appropriation; Mapping

**Description:**

Implements Act 183, SLH 2005, in accordance with the State's  
constitutional duty to protect important agricultural lands by  
providing funds to the counties for the identification and  
mapping of important agricultural lands.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is  
not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

