

JAN 19 2017

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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 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





# S.B. NO. 24

**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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