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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

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RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii must  
2 transition its agriculture industry, once dominated by sugar and  
3 pineapple, to one that is beneficial for diversified food crops.  
4 While diversified agriculture has increased, industry experts  
5 estimate that Hawaii imports approximately eighty-five to ninety  
6 per cent of the food it consumes.

7       According to a report issued in October 2012 by the office  
8 of planning in cooperation with the department of agriculture,  
9 entitled "Increased Food Security and Food Self-Sufficiency  
10 Strategy: A State Strategic/Functional Plan Prepared in  
11 Accordance with HRS Chapter 226 Hawaii State Plan and the Hawaii  
12 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy", replacing just ten  
13 per cent of the food that Hawaii currently imports would amount  
14 to approximately \$313,000,000, which would remain in the State  
15 and generate more than two thousand three hundred jobs.  
16 Investing in farmland and irrigation infrastructure will bring



1 Hawaii closer to becoming self-sufficient, and such local  
2 investments will benefit local residents.

3 The legislature further finds that Governor Ige set the  
4 policy goal of doubling food production by 2020. Issues such as  
5 preserving agricultural land, identifying food crops for local  
6 production, and improving irrigation and agricultural  
7 infrastructure need immediate attention so that doubling food  
8 production can become a realistic objective. Additionally, the  
9 legislature is committed to enacting the seventeen United  
10 Nations sustainable development goals. The second of these  
11 goals includes doubling local food production.

12 The purpose of this Act is to take steps toward identifying  
13 food crops and doubling local food production by requiring the  
14 department of agriculture, in coordination with the agribusiness  
15 development corporation, University of Hawaii system, soil and  
16 water conservation districts, and Hawaii Food Industry  
17 Association, to conduct crop performance testing trials on state  
18 agricultural lands of Hawaii's most highly imported food crops.

19 SECTION 2. (a) The department of agriculture, in  
20 coordination with the agribusiness development corporation,  
21 University of Hawaii system, soil and water conservation



1 districts, and Hawaii Food Industry Association, shall conduct  
2 crop performance testing trials on state agricultural land of  
3 the top food crops imported into the State between 2012  
4 and 2017.

5 (b) The department of agriculture shall submit a report of  
6 its findings and recommendations, including any proposed  
7 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior  
8 to the convening of the regular session of 2020.

9 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
11 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for crop  
12 performance testing trials; provided that the sum appropriated  
13 shall not lapse until June 30, 2020..

14 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
15 agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

16 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Agriculture; Local Food Production; Imported Food Crops; Crop Performance Testing Trials; Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires the Department of Agriculture, in coordination with the Agribusiness Development Corporation, University of Hawaii System, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and Hawaii Food Industry Association, to conduct crop performance testing trials on state agricultural lands of Hawaii's most highly imported food crops. Makes an appropriation. (SB2894 HD1)

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

