
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 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 Hawaii currently imports would amount to
14 approximately \$313,000,000, which would remain in the State and
15 generate more than 2,300 jobs. Investing in farmland and
16 irrigation infrastructure will bring Hawaii closer to becoming



1 self-sufficient, and such local investments will benefit local
2 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 senate is committed to enacting the seventeen United Nations
10 sustainable development goals as a priority for the regular
11 session of 2018. The second of these goals includes doubling
12 local food production.

13 The purpose of this Act is to take steps toward doubling
14 and identifying food crops for local food production by
15 requiring the department of agriculture, in coordination with
16 the agribusiness development corporation and University of
17 Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and human resources, to
18 conduct crop performance testing trials on state agricultural
19 lands of Hawaii's most highly imported food crops.

20 SECTION 2. (a) The department of agriculture, in
21 coordination with the agribusiness development corporation and



1 the University of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and
2 human resources, shall coordinate to conduct crop performance
3 testing trials on state agricultural land of the top food
4 crops imported into the State between 2012 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 on the crop
9 performance testing trials.

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

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

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

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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 and University of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and human resources, to conduct crop performance testing trials on state agricultural lands of Hawaii's most highly imported food crops. Makes an appropriation. (SD1)

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