A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE HONALO MARSHALLING YARD.

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

- 1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Honalo
- 2 marshalling yard in Kona, Hawaii, was built twenty-five years
- 3 ago, but was not utilized to its full potential until the Hawaii
- 4 'Ulu Cooperative began its operations at the facility in 2017.
- 5 The cooperative has grown to sixty-five local farm members,
- 6 serving public schools, hospitals, hotels, and restaurants
- 7 statewide. However, the facility's existing equipment and
- 8 infrastructure do not support the projected production of ten
- 9 thousand pounds per day, or two million pounds per year of ulu
- 10 and other co-crops.
- 11 Cooperatives are needed to help achieve the State's
- 12 ambitious goals for expanded local food production and
- 13 agricultural development because Hawaii's farming community is
- 14 dominated by small-scale operators, where ninety-five per cent
- of farmers generate less than \$250,000 per year. These
- 16 operators must work together to realize economies of scale and

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1 meet local food demand with export market potential. Only by 2 pooling resources and leveraging collective capabilities will 3 the State meet its goals, such as the Aloha+ Challenge. While 4 farmers continue to improve the State's self-sufficiency for 5 certain food groups like fruit and beef, the State remains 6 dependent on imports of whole grains or starches like rice, 7 wheat, and potatoes. Ulu has the unique potential to help 8 reverse this scenario. It is among the most sustainable staple 9 foods globally because it grows on a perennial tree, which **10** eliminates the need for annual tilling and replanting. Ulu also 11 provides other ecosystem services like carbon sequestration and soil and water retention. Moreover, ulu is a prolific producer 12 13 with average yields of three hundred pounds per tree per year 14 and requires far less fertilizer and pesticides than comparable 15 staple crops. In addition, it is a culturally appropriate food 16 and historically played an important role in Hawaii's food **17** sovereignty. It is also highly nutritious, gluten-free, low 18 glycemic, and high protein, making it increasingly compelling in 19 the national and international food market as a high-value 20 density export crop.

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1	The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to
2	accommodate the increased production of ulu and other co-crops
3	processed at the Honalo marshalling yard.
4	SECTION 2. The following sums, or so much thereof as shall
5	be sufficient to finance the projects listed in this Act, are
6	hereby appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of
7	Hawaii for fiscal year 2019-2020:
8	1. Honalo marshalling yard, Hawaii
9	Plans, design, and equipment and appurtenances.
10	Plans \$
11	Design \$
12	Equipment \$
13	Total funding \$
14	The sums appropriated for this capital improvement project
15	shall be expended by the department of agriculture for the
16	purposes of this Act.
17	SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

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Report Title:

Capital Improvement Project; Honalo Marshalling Yard; Department of Agriculture

Description:

Appropriates funds for a capital improvement project for the Honalo Marshalling Yard. (HB770 HD1)

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