



GOV. MSG. NO. 1402

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

July 12, 2022

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,  
President  
and Members of the Senate  
Thirty-First State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki,  
Speaker and Members of the  
House of Representatives  
Thirty-First State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 431  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

I am transmitting herewith SB2989 SD1 HD1 CD1, without my approval and with the statement of objections relating to the measure.

SB2989 SD1 HD1 CD1

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

Sincerely,

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

July 12, 2022

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIONS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2989

Honorable Members  
Thirty-First Legislature  
State of Hawai'i

Pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i, I am returning herewith, without my approval, Senate Bill No. 2989, entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to Agriculture."

The purpose of this bill is to create a Healthy Soils Program (Program) to improve soil health and increase carbon sequestration. It requires the Department of Agriculture (Department) to: (1) create a statewide soil health assessment; (2) provide farmers with education and technical assistance; (3) establish standards that apply to the Program; and (4) subject to available funding, issue financial incentives to implement farm management practices.

This bill is objectionable because the Department does not possess the elements of a science-based soil management and education program. The bill does not provide the resources or guidance to create what would amount to a new division within the Department. Senate Bill No. 2056, which this Legislature passed in the 2022 Legislative Session, and which I enacted as Act 189, requires the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, along with the Department, to undertake a soil classification study for the future regulation of agricultural lands. That study should be completed before a bill such as this is enacted. In addition, improving the capacity of existing programs such as the Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force, which was established by Act 15, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018, and the initiation of the Hawaii Carbon Smart Land Management Assistance Pilot program in Senate Bill No. 3325, which this Legislature also passed this session, and which I enacted as Act 185, will lead to better outcomes.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIONS  
SENATE BILL NO. 2989  
Page 2

For the foregoing reasons, I am returning Senate Bill No. 2989 without my approval.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David Y. Ige". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" and last name "Ige" clearly legible, and "Y." as a middle initial.

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor of Hawai'i

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 141, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"§141- Healthy soils program; special fund; established.

(a) The department of agriculture shall establish a healthy soils program. The healthy soils program shall:

(1) Create a statewide soil health assessment with a list of practices specific to the State and that are most effective in improving soil health and building soil carbon stocks;

(2) Provide farmers with education and technical assistance to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils;

(3) Establish standards that apply to the healthy soils program and are based on the findings of the greenhouse gas sequestration task force established pursuant to section 225P-4 relating to minimum levels



1 of soil carbon and water content and required soil  
2 health practices; and

3 (4) Subject to available funding, issue awards and other  
4 financial incentives to implement farm management  
5 practices that contribute to healthy soils.

6 (b) The long-term goals of the healthy soils program shall  
7 be to establish:

8 (1) Deadlines by which all awards issued by the department  
9 of agriculture shall meet the standards established  
10 pursuant to subsection (a) (3);

11 (2) Deadlines by which a plan for all state lands leased  
12 for agricultural use shall be required; and

13 (3) Programs incentivizing small farmers, ranchers, and  
14 landowners to take carbon negative actions on their  
15 respective lands.

16 (c) The department of agriculture shall submit a report  
17 detailing the status and progress of the healthy soils program  
18 and its recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to  
19 the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening  
20 of each regular session."



1       SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000 or so much  
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the  
4 establishment of the healthy soils program and to issue awards  
5 and other financial incentives pursuant to the program.

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

8       SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

9       SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.



S.B. NO. 2989  
S.D. 1  
H.D. 1  
C.D. 1

APPROVED this                      day of                      , 2022


GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

**THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI‘I**

Date: May 3, 2022  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Final Reading in the Senate  
of the Thirty-First Legislature of the State of Hawai‘i, Regular Session of 2022.

  
President of the Senate

  
Clerk of the Senate



SB No. 2989, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: May 3, 2022  
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirty-First Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022.



Scott K. Saiki  
Speaker  
House of Representatives



Brian L. Takeshita  
Chief Clerk  
House of Representatives