
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SOIL CLASSIFICATIONS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State has not
2 completed a comprehensive soil study or completed sufficient
3 agricultural soil mapping in over fifty years. The first and
4 only statewide soil mapping, classification, and
5 characterization study was conducted by the land study bureau of
6 the university of Hawaii from 1965 through 1972. This
7 classification system remains the master reference for the
8 regulation of lands in the state agricultural land use district
9 by the State and counties. The land study bureau classification
10 system reflects the agricultural activities of plantation sugar
11 cane and pineapple production that dominated Hawaii agriculture
12 at the time of the study.

13 The legislature further finds that the United States
14 Department of Agriculture maintains detailed information on
15 Hawaii soils in its national soil classification system, which
16 is regularly updated by the federal government. The United
17 States Department of Agriculture's soils inventory and



1 classification system is also the reference dataset for many of
2 the United States Department of Agriculture's programs.

3 To meet the State's food sustainability goals and enhance
4 local agricultural productivity, it is important to utilize
5 effective standards for identifying productive agricultural
6 lands and protect long-term agricultural use under state and
7 county land use regulatory systems. Accurate soil data
8 reflecting soil characteristics, soil properties, and
9 identification of limits, risks, and soil suitability for
10 various uses helps optimize public and private investments in
11 agriculture to meet Hawaii's food and agricultural
12 sustainability goals.

13 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

- 14 (1) Require the office of planning and sustainable
15 development to conduct a study of the suitability of
16 the land study bureau soil overall (master)
17 productivity rating system and other soil
18 classification systems in the regulation of
19 agricultural lands in the State and make
20 recommendations for the use of soil classification
21 systems for agricultural land use regulation; and



1 (2) Appropriate funds to conduct the study.

2 SECTION 2. The office of planning and sustainable
3 development shall conduct a study of the suitability of soil
4 classification systems, including the soil overall (master)
5 productivity rating system and detailed land classification of
6 the land study bureau, for the regulation of agricultural lands
7 by the State and counties.

8 SECTION 3. In conducting the study required by this Act,
9 the office of planning and sustainable development shall
10 request, as appropriate, the assistance of the department of
11 agriculture, college of tropical agriculture and human resources
12 of the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and the land use
13 commission, which shall cooperate with and provide any necessary
14 resources to the office of planning and sustainable development.
15 The office of planning and sustainable development may further
16 consult with the United States Department of Agriculture, if
17 necessary.

18 SECTION 4. The office of planning and sustainable
19 development shall submit a report of its findings and
20 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the



1 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
2 the regular session of 2024.

3 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$325,000 or so much
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the
6 office of planning and sustainable development to conduct the
7 study as required by this Act.

8 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
9 business, economic development, and tourism for the purposes of
10 this Act.

11 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.



Report Title:

Office of Planning and Sustainable Development; Soil
Classification; Agricultural Land Regulation; Study;
Appropriation

Description:

Requires the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, in
cooperation with the Department of Agriculture and Land Use
Commission, to conduct a study of the suitability of soil
classification systems for the regulation of agricultural lands.
Requires a report to the Legislature. Appropriates funds.
(CD1)

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not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

