
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 and soil properties and the
9 identification of limits, risks, and soil suitability for
10 various uses help 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, in cooperation with the department of
16 agriculture and land use commission, to conduct a
17 study of the suitability of the land study bureau soil
18 overall (master) productivity rating system and other
19 soil classification systems in the regulation of
20 agricultural lands in the State and make



1 recommendations for the use of soil classification
2 systems for agricultural land use regulation; and

3 (2) Appropriate funds to conduct the study.

4 SECTION 2. The office of planning and sustainable
5 development, in cooperation with the department of agriculture
6 and land use commission, shall conduct a study of the
7 suitability of soil classification systems, including the soil
8 overall (master) productivity rating system and detailed land
9 classification of the land study bureau, for the regulation of
10 agricultural lands by the State and counties.

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

20 SECTION 4. The office of planning and sustainable
21 development shall submit a report of its findings and



1 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
2 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
3 the regular session of 2024.

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

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

12 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



S.B. NO. 2056
S.D. 1
H.D. 1

Report Title:

Office of Planning and Sustainable Development; DOA; LUC; CTAHR;
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. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD1)

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