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# 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 \$ or so  
5 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for  
6 the office of planning and sustainable development to conduct  
7 the 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, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Office of Planning and Sustainable Development; Soil  
Classification; Study; Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development to conduct a study of the suitability of the State's current soil overall (master) productivity rating system classified by the Land Study Bureau's detailed land classification. Requires a report to the Legislature. Appropriates moneys. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

