

JAN 21 2022

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that local agriculture is
2 essential to Hawaii. Eighty-five per cent of all food consumed
3 in the State is imported, leaving Hawaii vulnerable to natural
4 disasters and supply chain disruptions. Increasing the amount
5 of food produced locally is key to reducing the need for
6 imported foods.

7 The legislature further finds, however, that high costs in
8 Hawaii limit the competitiveness of local agriculture and have
9 undermined efforts to expand local food production. Direct
10 support for local agricultural producers can help overcome the
11 high costs faced by Hawaii's agricultural sector.

12 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish an
13 agriculture investment fund to provide a dedicated funding
14 source for the local agricultural sector. Through the fund, the
15 department of agriculture will support agricultural producers
16 and alleviate economic strains on the sector.



S.B. NO. 2992

SECTION 2. Chapter 141, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"§141- Agricultural investment fund; establishment. (a)

There is established within the state treasury the agricultural investment special fund.

(b) The following moneys shall be deposited into the special fund:

(1) Any appropriation by the legislature into the special fund;

(2) Any grant or donation made to the special fund; and

(3) Any interest earned on the balance of the special fund.

(c) Subject to legislative appropriation, moneys in the special fund may be expended for the following purposes:

(1) The awarding of grants to farmers for agricultural production or processing activity;

(2) The acquisition of real property for agricultural production or processing activity;



1 (3) The improvement of real property, irrigation systems,
2 and transportation networks necessary to promote
3 agricultural production or processing activity;

4 (4) The purchase of equipment necessary for agricultural
5 production or processing activity;

6 (5) The conduct of research on and testing of agricultural
7 products and markets;

8 (6) The funding of agricultural inspector positions within
9 the department of agriculture;

10 (7) The promotion and marketing of agricultural products
11 grown or raised in the state; and

12 (8) Any other activity intended to increase agricultural
13 production or processing that may lead to reduced
14 importation of food, fodder, or feed from outside the
15 state.

16 (d) The department of agriculture shall submit a report to
17 the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening
18 of each regular session on the status and progress of existing
19 programs and activities and the status of new programs and
20 activities funded under the agricultural investment special
21 fund. The report shall also include:



- 1 (1) The spending plan of the agricultural investment
- 2 special fund;
- 3 (2) All expenditures of agricultural development and food
- 4 security special fund moneys;
- 5 (3) The targeted markets of the expenditures, including
- 6 the reason for selecting those markets;
- 7 (4) The persons to be served using the expenditures; and
- 8 (5) The specific objectives of the expenditures, including
- 9 measurable outcomes."

10 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general fund
11 the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary
12 for fiscal year 2022-2023 to be deposited into the agriculture
13 investment special fund.

14 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the agriculture
15 investment special fund the sum of \$ or so much
16 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the
17 department of agriculture to support local agricultural
18 producers; provided that no funds shall be made available under
19 this Act unless the department of agriculture obtains fifty per
20 cent matching funds from private sources.



S.B. NO. 2992

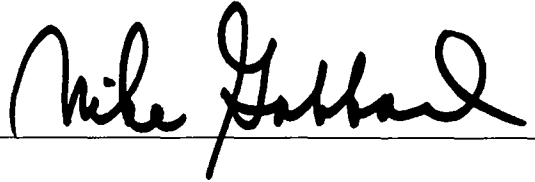
1 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
2 agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

3 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

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

5

INTRODUCED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Hubbard", is written over a horizontal line.



S.B. NO. 2992

Report Title:

Agriculture Investment Fund; Department of Agriculture;
Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the agriculture investment special fund to support
local agricultural producers. Makes an appropriation.

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

