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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

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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 that, if left dependent on  
8 imports, Hawaii residents will experience greater volatility in  
9 the price and availability of food because of the impact of  
10 climate change on national and global food production. It can  
11 no longer be assumed that there will always be an unlimited  
12 supply of affordable food from overseas to feed Hawaii's  
13 population.

14       The legislature recognizes, however, that high costs in  
15 Hawaii limit the competitiveness of local agriculture and have  
16 undermined efforts to expand local food production. Direct



1 support for local agricultural producers can help overcome the  
2 high costs faced by Hawaii's agricultural sector.

3 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish the  
4 Hawaii agricultural investment program to provide a dedicated  
5 funding source for the local agricultural sector. Through the  
6 program, the department of agriculture will invest in  
7 agricultural producers to support the State's economy and  
8 alleviate financial strains on the sector.

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

12 **"§141- Hawaii agricultural investment program. (a)**

13 There is established within the department the Hawaii  
14 agricultural investment program.

15 (b) Subject to legislative appropriation, moneys in the  
16 program may be awarded as fifty per cent matching grants for the  
17 following purposes:

18 (1) The increase of agricultural production or processing  
19 capacity;

20 (2) The acquisition of real property for agricultural  
21 production or processing activities;



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

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

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

8       (6) The promotion and marketing of agricultural products  
9       grown or raised in the State; and

10      (7) Any other activities intended to increase agricultural  
11      production or processing that may lead to reduced  
12      importation of food, fodder, or feed from outside the  
13      State.

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

20      (1) An accounting of all moneys expended by the Hawaii  
21      agricultural investment program;



- 1        (2) Descriptions of the markets targeted for expenditures,  
2        including the reasons for selecting those markets;  
3        (3) A discussion of the persons who will be served by the  
4        expenditures; and  
5        (4) The specific objectives of the expenditures, including  
6        measurable outcomes."

7        SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                      or so  
9 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for  
10 the department of agriculture to establish the Hawaii  
11 agricultural investment program to support local agricultural  
12 producers; provided that no matching grant funds shall be made  
13 available under this Act unless matched by the grant recipient  
14 or entity.

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

17        SECTION 4. The appropriation made in section 3 of this Act  
18 shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year for which the  
19 appropriation is made; provided that all moneys from the  
20 appropriation unencumbered as of June 30, 2024, shall lapse as  
21 of that date.



- 1 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.
- 2 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Hawaii Agricultural Investment Program; Department of  
Agriculture; Reports; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes the Hawaii Agricultural Investment Program to  
support local agricultural producers. Requires annual reports.  
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.*

