

JAN 21 2022

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FARMER EQUITY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature recognizes the importance of
2 investing in the long-term prosperity of the State's food and
3 farming system, starting with its farmers. The legislature
4 finds that historical and ongoing dispossession and
5 deterritorialization have greatly impacted Native Hawaiian
6 access to land and other resources such that structural barriers
7 to farming continue to exist for Native Hawaiians. In addition,
8 immigrant farmers and farmers of color have historically not had
9 equitable access to land and other resources necessary to farm
10 in Hawaii, and the legacy of disadvantage persists.

11 According to the United States Department of Agriculture
12 National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2017 Census of
13 Agriculture, female farmers represent approximately thirty-six
14 per cent of all farmers referenced as primary producers in the
15 State, while only twenty-five per cent of Hawaii farmers
16 referenced as principal producers are women of color.



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1 The legislature also finds that existing federal
2 agricultural policies have failed to provide sufficient and
3 appropriate technical assistance and financial support,
4 including farmer cooperative creation, for socially
5 disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.

6 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to support socially
7 disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and include this support in
8 the department of agriculture's vision and relevant policies.

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

12 "§141- **Farmer equity.** (a) The department shall:

13 (1) Ensure the inclusion of socially disadvantaged farmers
14 and ranchers, including socially disadvantaged farmers
15 and ranchers in urbanized areas, in the development,
16 adoption, implementation, and enforcement of food and
17 agriculture laws, rules, policies, and programs;

18 (2) Consult with federal, state, and county agencies and
19 departments and all other interested members of the
20 public and private sectors in the State on



1 opportunities for socially disadvantaged farmers and
2 ranchers and to coordinate state programs;
3 (3) Disseminate information regarding opportunities
4 provided by the United States Department of
5 Agriculture, United States Environmental Protection
6 Agency, United States General Accounting Office,
7 Office of Management and Budget, and other federal
8 agencies for socially disadvantaged farmers and
9 ranchers;
10 (4) Evaluate boards, committees, commissions, and advisory
11 panels related to farming and ranching in the State
12 for opportunities to include socially disadvantaged
13 farmers and ranchers; and
14 (5) Compile and report data on who receives subsidies and
15 state land leases, and whether these resources are
16 being allocated to socially disadvantaged farmers.
17 (b) The chairperson shall submit a report of the
18 department's findings and recommendations, including any
19 proposed legislation, on efforts to serve socially disadvantaged
20 farmers and ranchers and all female farmers and ranchers in the
21 State to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the



1 convening of the regular session of 2023 and each regular
2 session thereafter. The report shall also provide information
3 on how to improve processes to include socially disadvantaged
4 farmers and ranchers.

5 (c) For purposes of this section:

6 "Chairperson" means the chairperson of the board of
7 agriculture.

8 "Department" means the department of agriculture.

9 "Socially disadvantaged farmer" means a farmer who is a
10 member of a socially disadvantaged group.

11 "Socially disadvantaged group" means a group whose members
12 have been subject to prejudice based on their race, ethnicity,
13 gender, or immigrant status because of their identity as members
14 of a group without regard to their individual qualities. These
15 groups include all of the following:

16 (1) Native Hawaiians;

17 (2) Pacific Islanders;

18 (3) African Americans, Africans, and Afro-Latinos;

19 (4) Native Americans;

20 (5) Alaskan Natives;

21 (6) Latino/a/Latinx;



1 (7) Asian Americans;

2 (8) Women; and

3 (9) Immigrant communities.

4 "Socially disadvantaged rancher" means a rancher who is a
5 member of a socially disadvantaged group.

6 "Urbanized area", as used by the United States Census
7 Bureau, refers to an area with a population of at least
8 fifty thousand people."

9 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

10 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: _____

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S.B. NO. 2409

Report Title:

Farmer Equity; Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers;
Department of Agriculture

Description:

Enhances farmer equity by ensuring inclusion of socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers in the development, implementation, and enforcement of food and agriculture laws, rule, policies, and programs. Requires an annual report to the legislature.

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

