

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

4 "§141- Healthy soils grant program; special fund;
5 established. (a) The department of agriculture shall establish
6 a healthy soils grant program, which shall:

7 (1) Define the terms "healthy soils" and "healthy soils
8 practices";

9 (2) Create a statewide soil health assessment with a list
10 of practices specific to the State that are most
11 effective in improving soil health and building soil
12 carbon stocks;

13 (3) Provide farmers with education and technical
14 assistance to implement farm management practices that
15 contribute to healthy soils;

16 (4) Establish standards that shall apply to the healthy
17 soils grant program, based on the findings of reports



1 completed by the greenhouse gas sequestration task
2 force established pursuant to section 225P-4 for
3 minimum levels of soil carbon and water content and
4 required soil health practices; and

5 (5) Subject to available funding, award grants and other
6 financial incentives to implement farm management
7 practices that contribute to healthy soils.

8 (b) The long-term goals of the healthy soil grant program
9 shall be to establish:

10 (1) Standards that would apply to all grants awarded by
11 the department of agriculture to encourage healthy
12 soils by _____ ;

13 (2) Deadlines for all grants awarded by the department of
14 agriculture to meet the standards in section (a)(4);

15 (3) Deadlines for all state lands leased for agricultural
16 use to require a plan pursuant to the health soils
17 grant program; and

18 (4) Programs incentivizing small farmers, ranchers, and
19 landowners to take carbon positive actions on their
20 lands.



1 (c) There is established a healthy soils grant program
2 special fund to be placed in the department of agriculture for
3 administrative purposes into which shall be deposited any
4 appropriations by the legislature. The fund shall be used to
5 implement and operate the healthy soils grant program and award
6 grants.

7 (d) The department of agriculture shall submit a report
8 detailing the status and progress of the healthy soils grant
9 program, including any proposed legislature or recommendations,
10 to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the
11 convening of each regular session."

12 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general fund
13 the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary
14 for fiscal year 2022-2023 to be deposited into the healthy soils
15 grant program special fund.

16 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the healthy soils
17 grant program special fund the sum of \$ or so much
18 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the
19 establishment of the health soils grant program and to award
20 grants pursuant to the program.



S.B. NO. 2989

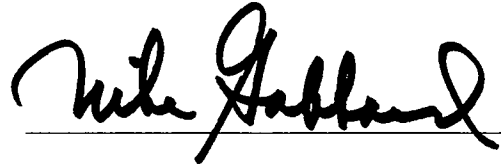
1 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
2 agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

3 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

4 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.

5

INTRODUCED BY:





S.B. NO. 2989

Report Title:

Department of Agriculture; Healthy Soils; Healthy Soils Program;
Carbon Sequestration

Description:

Requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a Healthy
Soils Program.

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