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# 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 part I to be appropriately  
3 designated and to read as follows:

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

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

11           (2) Provide farmers with education and technical  
12           assistance to implement farm management practices that  
13           contribute to healthy soils;

14           (3) By \_\_\_\_\_, establish standards that shall apply to  
15           the healthy soils program and be based on the findings  
16           of the greenhouse gas sequestration task force  
17           established pursuant to section 225P-4 relating to



1 minimum levels of soil carbon and water content and  
2 required soil health practices; and

3 (4) Subject to available funding, issue awards and other  
4 financial incentives to implement farm management  
5 practices that contribute to healthy soils.

6 (b) The long-term goals of the healthy soils program shall  
7 be to establish:

8 (1) Deadlines by which all awards issued by the department  
9 of agriculture shall meet the standards established  
10 pursuant to subsection (a) (3);

11 (2) Deadlines by which a plan for all state lands leased  
12 for agricultural use shall be required pursuant to the  
13 healthy soils program; and

14 (3) Programs incentivizing small farmers, ranchers, and  
15 landowners to take carbon positive actions on their  
16 respective lands.

17 (c) There is established a healthy soils program special  
18 fund to be administered by the department of agriculture and  
19 into which shall be deposited moneys appropriated by the  
20 legislature. The special fund shall be used to implement and  
21 operate the healthy soils program and issue awards.



1        (d) The department of agriculture shall submit a report  
2 detailing the status and progress of the healthy soils program  
3 and its recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to  
4 the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening  
5 of each regular session."

6        SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general fund  
7 the sum of \$                    or so much thereof as may be necessary  
8 for fiscal year 2022-2023 to be deposited into the healthy soils  
9 program special fund.

10       SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the healthy soils  
11 program special fund the sum of \$                    or so much thereof  
12 as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the  
13 establishment of the healthy soils program and to issue awards  
14 pursuant to the program.

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

17       SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

18       SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

DOA; Healthy Soils; Healthy Soils Program; Special Fund; Carbon Sequestration; Appropriations

**Description:**

Requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a Healthy Soils Program. Establishes a Healthy Soils Program Special Fund. 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.*

