
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FOOD SAFETY.

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

1 SECTION 1. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of
2 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,
3 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the
4 appropriations contained in H.B. No. 300, H.D. 1, S.D. 1,
5 C.D. 1, and this Act will cause the state general fund
6 expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2023-2024 to be exceeded by
7 \$1,064,767,367 or 11.0 per cent. This current declaration takes
8 into account general fund appropriations authorized for fiscal
9 year 2023-2024 in H.B. No. 300, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, C.D. 1, and this
10 Act only. The reasons for exceeding the general fund
11 expenditure ceiling are that:

12 (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to
13 serve the public interest; and

14 (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs
15 addressed by this Act.

16 SECTION 2. The legislature finds that, according to the
17 East-West Center's Pacific Regional Integrated Sciences and
18 Assessments Program, Hawaii is the most geographically isolated



1 state in the country and imports approximately ninety-two per
2 cent of its food. Each food product imported to Hawaii is a
3 lost opportunity for building economic growth in the
4 agricultural sector, increasing resiliency in the face of future
5 supply chain disruptions, and attaining state goals for local
6 food production, including benchmarks for Hawaii's
7 farm-to-school program, food purchasing by state agencies, and
8 food hubs.

9 The United States Department of Agriculture created the
10 GroupGAP program in 2015 to assist small farms with attaining
11 Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certification. GroupGAP
12 reduces the cost of food safety certification by spreading the
13 training, technical assistance, and auditing costs between all
14 farms in the group. Hawaii GroupGAP is the only comprehensive
15 farm food safety training program in Hawaii that results in
16 United States Department of Agriculture harmonized Good
17 Agricultural Practices certification, the standard most closely
18 aligned with the United States Food and Drug Administration's
19 food safety guidelines.

20 In recognizing the need for more locally produced food, the
21 legislature passed Act 136, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022, which



1 required the department of agriculture to partner with the
2 agricultural community to establish a food safety certification
3 training program, and appropriated funds for the training
4 program. However, the funds appropriated were directed in full
5 to the University of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and
6 human resources, which does not have a United States Department
7 of Agriculture GroupGAP food safety training and certification
8 program. The legislature finds that in order for a GroupGAP
9 food safety training and certification program to be
10 established, an additional appropriation must be made.

11 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate
12 funds for the establishment of a GroupGAP food safety training
13 and certification program within the department of agriculture.

14 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,000,000 or so much
16 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 for the
17 department of agriculture to establish and implement, under
18 program identification number AGR192, general administration for
19 agriculture, a GroupGAP food safety training and certification
20 program.



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

3 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.



Report Title:

GroupGAP; DOA; Certification; Training; U.S. Food and Drug Administration; Food Safety Modernization Act; Appropriation; Expenditure Ceiling

Description:

Appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture to establish and implement a GroupGAP food safety training and certification program. (CD1)

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