
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FOOD SAFETY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that according to the
2 East-West Center's Pacific Regional Integrated Sciences and
3 Assessments Program, Hawaii is the most geographically isolated
4 state in the country and imports approximately ninety-two per
5 cent of its food. Each food product imported to Hawaii is a
6 lost opportunity for building economic growth in the
7 agricultural sector, increasing resiliency in the face of future
8 supply chain disruptions, and attaining state goals for local
9 food production, including benchmarks for Hawaii's
10 farm-to-school program, food purchasing by state agencies, and
11 food hubs.

12 The United States Department of Agriculture created the
13 GroupGAP program in 2015 to assist small farms with attaining
14 Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certification. GroupGAP
15 reduces the cost of food safety certification by spreading the
16 training, technical assistance, and auditing costs among all
17 farms in the group. Hawaii GroupGAP is the only comprehensive



1 farm food safety training program in Hawaii that results in
2 United States Department of Agriculture harmonized Good
3 Agricultural Practices certification, the standard most closely
4 aligned with the United States Food and Drug Administration's
5 food safety guidelines.

6 In recognizing the need for more locally produced food, the
7 legislature passed Act 136, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022, which
8 required the department of agriculture to partner with the
9 agricultural community to establish a food safety certification
10 training program and appropriated funds for the training
11 program. However, the funds appropriated were directed in full
12 to the University of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and
13 human resources, which does not have a United States Department
14 of Agriculture GroupGAP food safety training and certification
15 program. The legislature finds that in order for a GroupGAP
16 food safety training and certification program to be
17 established, an additional appropriation must be made.

18 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate
19 funds to the department of agriculture for the establishment of
20 a GroupGAP food safety training and certification program.



1 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
3 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and
4 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
5 year 2024-2025 for the department of agriculture to establish
6 and implement, under program identification number AGR192,
7 general administration for agriculture, a GroupGAP food safety
8 training and certification program.

9 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
10 of agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

11 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on June 30, 3000.



Report Title:

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

Description:

Appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture to establish and implement a GroupGAP food safety training and certification program. Effective 6/30/3000. (HD1)

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