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

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



1 United States Department of Agriculture harmonized GAP  
2 certification, the standard most closely aligned with the Food  
3 and Drug Administration's food safety guidelines.

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

16 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate  
17 funds for the establishment of a GroupGAP food safety training  
18 and certification program.

19 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,000,000 or so much  
21 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and the



1 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
2 2024-2025 for the department of agriculture to establish and  
3 implement, under general administration for agriculture, a  
4 GroupGAP food safety training and certification program.

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

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



**Report Title:**

Food and Drug Administration; Food Safety Modernization Act;  
Certification; Training; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture to establish  
and implement a GroupGAP food safety training and certification  
program. (SD1)

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

