THE SENATE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2023 STATE OF HAWAII

S.B. NO. 640

JAN 202023

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

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

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that local agriculture is
essential to Hawaii. Eighty-five per cent of all food consumed
in the State is imported, leaving Hawaii vulnerable to natural
disasters and supply chain disruptions. Increasing the amount
of food produced locally is key to reducing the need for
imported foods.

7 The legislature further finds that, if left dependent on 8 imports, Hawaii residents will experience greater volatility in 9 the price and availability of food because of the impact of 10 climate change on national and global food production. It can 11 no longer be assumed that there will always be an unlimited 12 supply of affordable food from outside the State to feed 13 Hawaii's population.

14 The legislature also recognizes, however, that high costs 15 in the State limit the competitiveness of local agriculture and 16 have undermined efforts to expand local food production. Direct



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1 support for local agricultural producers can help overcome the 2 high costs faced by Hawaii's agricultural sector. 3 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish the 4 Hawaii agricultural investment program to provide a dedicated 5 funding source for the local agricultural sector. Through the 6 program, the department of agriculture can invest in 7 agricultural producers to support the State's economy and 8 alleviate financial strains on the local agricultural sector. SECTION 2. Chapter 141, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is 9 10 amended by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately 11 designated and to read as follows: 12 Hawaii agricultural investment program. "§141-(a) 13 There is established within the department of agriculture the 14 Hawaii agricultural investment program. 15 (b) Moneys in the program shall be awarded as matching 16 grants to: 17 (1) Increase agricultural production or processing 18 capacity; 19 Acquire real property for agricultural production or (2) 20 processing activities;



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1	(3)	Improve real property, irrigation systems, and
2		transportation networks necessary to promote
3		agricultural production or processing activities;
4	(4)	Purchase equipment necessary for agricultural
5		production or processing activities;
6	(5)	Conduct research on and testing of agricultural
7		products and markets;
8	(6)	Promote and market agricultural products grown or
9		raised in the State;
10	(7)	Convert chicken shell egg farm or business operations
11		from caged to cage-free operations; and
12	(8)	Any other activities intended to increase agricultural
13		production or processing that may lead to the reduced
14		importation of food, fodder, or feed from outside the
15		State.
16	(c)	The department of agriculture shall submit a report to
17	the legis	lature no later than twenty days prior to the convening
18	<u>of each r</u>	egular session on the status and progress of existing
19	programs	and activities and the status of new programs and
20	activitie	s funded under the Hawaii agricultural investment
21	program.	The report shall also include:



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1	(1)	An accounting of all moneys expended by the Hawaii	
2		agricultural investment program;	
3	(2)	Descriptions of the markets targeted for expenditures,	
4		including the reasons for selecting those markets;	
5	(3)	A discussion of the persons who will be served by the	
6		expenditures; and	
7	(4)	The specific objectives of the expenditures, including	
8		measurable outcomes."	
9	SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general		
10	revenues	of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so	
11	much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and		
12	the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal		
13	year 2024-2025 for the department of agriculture to establish		
14	the Hawaii agricultural investment program to support local		
15	agricultural producers; provided that no funds shall be made		
16	available under this Act unless the department of agriculture		
17	obtains twenty-five per cent matching funds from federal,		
18	private, or other sources.		
19	The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department		
20	of agriculture for the purposes of this Act.		

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1 SECTION 4. The appropriations made in section 3 of this 2 Act shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal years for which the appropriations were made; provided that all moneys from the 3 4 appropriations unencumbered as of June 30, 2026, shall lapse as 5 of that date. 6 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored. 7 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023. 8

INTRODUCED BY: Chile Halland

Report Title:

Hawaii Agricultural Investment Program; Department of Agriculture; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the Hawaii Agricultural Investment Program to support local agricultural producers. Requires annual reports to the Legislature. Appropriates funds.

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

