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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. The legislature finds there are many funding  
2 opportunities from federal sources offering support for  
3 agricultural purposes that remain untapped or overlooked due to  
4 the lack of adequate grant writing and grant administration  
5 capacity and expertise in the department of agriculture.  
6 Establishing a program specialist position to seek and write  
7 grants, provide technical assistance, provide grant program  
8 administration, perform needs assessments, and make  
9 recommendations to the chairperson of the board of agriculture  
10 is critical for building and providing that capability within  
11 the department of agriculture. Additionally, many of Hawaii's  
12 farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural operators struggle to  
13 secure the financial support necessary to establish a thriving,  
14 vibrant business. Many smaller farmers, ranchers, and other  
15 agricultural operators lack the necessary business and  
16 management expertise to seek out and apply for the various  
17 sources of funding available to them, including funding provided



1 by the United States Department of Agriculture and other  
2 sources. To obtain grants from such sources, applicants must  
3 complete an application process that is sometimes arduous and  
4 complex. Without specific technical expertise in grant writing,  
5 it is difficult for many small farmers, ranchers, and other  
6 agricultural operators to obtain those grants. In addition,  
7 certain requirements of the grants may be difficult to  
8 understand and may lead to compliance issues without appropriate  
9 grant administration and guidance.

10 The purpose of this Act is to establish and fund a  
11 full-time program specialist position within the department of  
12 agriculture to seek and write grants; provide technical  
13 assistance; provide grant program administration; perform needs  
14 assessments; make recommendations to the chairperson of the  
15 board of agriculture; and assist farmers, ranchers, and other  
16 agricultural operators in applying for and obtaining grants  
17 offered by the United States Department of Agriculture and other  
18 sources, and to assist them with fulfilling and complying with  
19 the requirements of the grants.

20 SECTION 2. There is established within the department of  
21 agriculture a grant specialist position, which shall be a



1 full-time program specialist position to seek and write grants;  
2 provide technical assistance; provide grant program  
3 administration; perform needs assessments; make recommendations  
4 to the chairperson of the board of agriculture; and assist  
5 farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural operators in applying  
6 for and obtaining grants offered by the United States Department  
7 of Agriculture and other sources and fulfilling and complying  
8 with the requirements of the grants; provided that priority for  
9 assistance shall be given to farmers and ranchers who produce  
10 local food, at least some portion of which is consumed within  
11 the State.

12 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
14 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and  
15 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
16 year 2024-2025 to carry out the purposes of this Act.

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

19 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on June 30, 3000.



**Report Title:**

HDOA; Program Specialist Position; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes a program specialist position within the Department of Agriculture and appropriates moneys to fund the position. Requires the grant specialist to prioritize assistance for farmers and ranchers who produce local food, at least some portion of which is consumed within the State. Effective 6/30/3000. (SD1)

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

