
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, which is the most geographically isolated state in the
4 country, imports approximately ninety-two per cent of its food.
5 Each 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 certification. GroupGAP reduces the
14 cost of food safety certification by spreading the training,
15 technical assistance, and auditing costs among all farms in the
16 group. Hawaii GroupGAP is the only comprehensive farm food
17 safety training program in Hawaii that results in United States



1 Department of Agriculture harmonized Good Agricultural Practices
2 certification, the standard most closely aligned with the United
3 States Food 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 \$ or so
21 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and



1 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
2 year 2024-2025 for the department of agriculture to establish
3 and 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 June 30, 3000.



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. Effective 6/30/3000. (HD2)

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