
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 that many of Hawaii's
2 farmers and ranchers are finding difficulty in securing the
3 financial support necessary to build a thriving, vibrant
4 business. Various sources of funding, including grants provided
5 by the United States Department of Agriculture and the State,
6 counties, and private entities, are available for farmers and
7 ranchers. Access to grants from the United States Department of
8 Agriculture and other sources can increase production capacity,
9 provide new business opportunities, and increase employment
10 opportunities within the State's agricultural industry.

11 The legislature further finds that farmers and ranchers
12 applying for grants may have to complete an application process
13 that is sometimes complex. Without specific technical expertise
14 in grant writing, many farmers and ranchers may be deterred from
15 applying for those grants. Well-trained and skilled grant
16 specialists would be able to assist farmers and ranchers in
17 obtaining and fulfilling the requirements of grants.



1 The purpose of this Act is to establish grant specialist
2 positions within the department of agriculture to assist farmers
3 and ranchers in applying for, obtaining, and fulfilling the
4 requirements of grants offered by the United States Department
5 of Agriculture, State, counties, or private entities.

6 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
8 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for
9 the establishment of full-time equivalent (FTE) grant
10 specialist positions within the department of agriculture to
11 assist farmers and ranchers in applying for, obtaining, and
12 fulfilling the requirements of grants offered by the United
13 States Department of Agriculture, State, counties, or private
14 entities; provided that the grant specialist positions shall
15 prioritize assisting farmers and ranchers who produce local food
16 that is at least partly consumed within the State.

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

19 SECTION 3. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of
20 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,
21 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the



1 appropriations contained in H.B. No. , will cause the state
2 general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be
3 exceeded by \$ or per cent. In addition, the
4 appropriation contained in this Act will cause the general fund
5 expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be further
6 exceeded by \$ or per cent. The combined total
7 amount of general fund appropriations contained in only these
8 two Acts will cause the state general fund expenditure ceiling
9 for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by

10 \$ or per cent. The reasons for exceeding the
11 general fund expenditure ceiling are that:

- 12 (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to
13 serve the public interest; and
- 14 (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs
15 addressed by this Act.

16 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



Report Title:

Department of Agriculture; Grant Specialist Positions;
Appropriation; Expenditure Ceiling

Description:

Appropriates funds to establish grant specialist positions
within the Department of Agriculture. Effective 7/1/3000.
(HD2)

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