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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. Chapter 141, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately  
3 designated and to read as follows:

4           "§141-    Healthy soils program; established.   (a) The  
5 department of agriculture shall establish a healthy soils  
6 program. The healthy soils program shall:

7           (1) Create a statewide soil health assessment with a list  
8           of practices specific to the State and that are most  
9           effective in improving soil health and building soil  
10           carbon stocks;

11           (2) Provide farmers with education and technical  
12           assistance to implement farm management practices that  
13           contribute to healthy soils;

14           (3) Establish standards that apply to the healthy soils  
15           program and are based on the findings of the  
16           greenhouse gas sequestration task force established  
17           pursuant to section 225P-4 relating to minimum levels



1           of soil carbon and water content and required soil  
2           health practices; and

3           (4) Subject to available funding, issue awards and other  
4           financial incentives to implement farm management  
5           practices that contribute to healthy soils.

6           (b) The long-term goals of the healthy soils program shall  
7 be to establish:

8           (1) Deadlines by which all awards issued by the department  
9           of agriculture shall meet the standards established  
10           pursuant to subsection (a) (3);

11           (2) Deadlines by which a plan for all state lands leased  
12           for agricultural use shall be required; and

13           (3) Programs incentivizing small farmers, ranchers, and  
14           landowners to take carbon negative actions on their  
15           respective lands.

16           (c) The department of agriculture shall submit a report  
17 detailing the status and progress of the healthy soils program  
18 and its recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to  
19 the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening  
20 of each regular session."





# H.B. NO. 443

**Report Title:**

DOA; Healthy Soils; Healthy Soils Program; Carbon Sequestration; Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires the department of agriculture to establish a healthy soils program. 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.*

