
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 part I to be appropriately designated
3 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 department of agriculture may consult with or
7 contract a third-party for any needed expertise to perform its
8 duties pursuant to this section. The healthy soils program
9 shall:

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

14 (2) Provide farmers with education and technical
15 assistance to implement farm management practices that
16 contribute to healthy soils;



1 (3) Establish standards that apply to the healthy soils
2 program and are based on the findings of the
3 greenhouse gas sequestration task force established
4 pursuant to section 225P-4 relating to minimum levels
5 of soil carbon and water content and required soil
6 health practices; and

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

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

12 (1) Deadlines by which all awards issued by the department
13 of agriculture shall meet the standards established
14 pursuant to subsection (a)(3);

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

17 (3) Programs incentivizing small farmers, ranchers, and
18 landowners to take carbon negative actions on their
19 respective lands.

20 (c) The department of agriculture shall submit a report
21 detailing the status and progress of the healthy soils program



1 and its recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to
2 the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening
3 of each regular session."

4 SECTION 2. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of
5 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,
6 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the
7 appropriations contained in Act 164, Regular Session of 2023,
8 and this Act will cause the state general fund expenditure
9 ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by
10 \$ or per cent. This current declaration takes
11 into account general fund appropriations authorized for fiscal
12 year 2024-2025 in Act 164, Regular Session of 2023, and this Act
13 only. The reasons for exceeding the general fund expenditure
14 ceiling are that:

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

19 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000 or so much
21 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for the



1 establishment of the healthy soils program and to issue awards
2 and other financial incentives pursuant to the program.

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

5 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

6 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.



Report Title:

DOA; Healthy Soils Program; Carbon Sequestration; Report;
Expenditure Ceiling; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a Healthy Soils Program. Requires an annual report to the Legislature. Declares that the general fund expenditure ceiling is exceeded. Makes an appropriation. (SD1)

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