

JAN 19 2024

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 capacities 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 without appropriate grant administration and guidance
9 and may lead to compliance issues.

10 The purpose of this Act is to establish and fund within the
11 department of agriculture one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE)
12 program specialist position to perform various functions to
13 maximize funding opportunities from federal and other sources
14 for agricultural purposes.

15 SECTION 2. There is established within the department of
16 agriculture one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) program
17 specialist position to:

- 18 (1) Seek and write grants;
- 19 (2) Provide technical assistance and grant program
20 administration;
- 21 (3) Perform needs assessments;



1 (4) Make recommendations to the chairperson of the board
2 of agriculture; and

3 (5) Assist farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural
4 operators in:

5 (A) Applying for and obtaining grants offered by the
6 United States Department of Agriculture and other
7 sources; and

8 (B) Fulfilling and complying with the requirements of
9 awarded grants;

10 provided that priority for assistance shall be given
11 to farmers and ranchers who produce local food, at
12 least some portion of which is consumed within the
13 State.

14 SECTION 3. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of
15 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,
16 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the
17 appropriations contained in Act 164, Regular Session of 2023,
18 and this Act will cause the state general fund expenditure
19 ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by
20 \$ or per cent. This current declaration takes
21 into account general fund appropriations authorized for fiscal



1 year 2024-2025 in Act 164, Regular Session of 2023, and this Act
2 only. The reasons for exceeding the general fund expenditure
3 ceiling are that:

4 (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to
5 serve the public interest; and

6 (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs
7 addressed by this Act.

8 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
10 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 to
11 carry out the purposes of this Act.

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

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

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INTRODUCED BY: *Mike Gabbard*



S.B. NO. 242A

Report Title:

DOA; Program Specialist Position; Expenditure Ceiling;
Appropriation

Description:

Establishes within the Department of Agriculture a program specialist position. Declares that the general fund expenditure ceiling is exceeded. Appropriates funds.

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