

---

---

## 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 two full-time equivalent (2.0 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



# H.B. NO. 2134

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, 2024.

17

INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 19 2024



# H.B. NO. 2134

**Report Title:**

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

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to establish grant specialist positions  
within the Department of Agriculture.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

