

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1	SECT	ION 1. Chapter 141, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2	amended b	y adding a new section to part I to be appropriately
3	designate	d and to read as follows:
4	" <u>§</u> 14	1- Healthy soils program; established. (a) The
5	departmen	t 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

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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 est	ablish:
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	<u>(c)</u>	The department of agriculture shall submit a report
17	detailing	the status and progress of the healthy soils program
18	and its r	ecommendations, including any proposed legislation, to
19	the legis	lature no later than twenty days prior to the convening
20	of each r	egular session."

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1	SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general				
2	revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000 or so much				
3	thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and the				
4	same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year				
5	2024-2025 for the establishment of the healthy soils program and				
6	to issue awards and other financial incentives pursuant to the				
7	program.				
8	The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department				
9	of agriculture for the purposes of this Act.				
10	SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.				
11	SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.				
12	INTRODUCED BY:				
	N IAN 2 ∩ 2023				

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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.

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