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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. The legislature finds that establishing a  
2 permanent educational support associate position placed within  
3 the university of Hawai'i college of tropical agriculture and  
4 human resources (CTAHR) is needed to successfully implement the  
5 following goals of the college's cooperative extension program:

- 6           (1) Providing non-formal science-based education;  
7           (2) Acting as the outreach component of CTAHR; and  
8           (3) Extending practical applications of science to support  
9           local food systems, healthy living, youth development,  
10           and the stewardship of natural resources for future  
11           generations.

12           The legislature further finds that CTAHR's Kona cooperative  
13 extension, which houses the Kona research station, provides  
14 crucial support for local coffee farmers statewide, who  
15 currently face dire threats to their crops from the recently  
16 discovered coffee berry borer and from coffee leaf rust. With a  
17 farm-gate value of approximately \$48.4 million, and an unroasted



1 value of \$101.5 million, the coffee industry represents the  
2 State's third-highest valued agricultural commodity. Despite  
3 this, the coffee industry is currently served statewide by just  
4 one CTAHR extension agent.

5 The legislature further finds that CTAHR's sole extension  
6 agent is currently supported by just one educational support  
7 associate position, which has historically been one hundred per  
8 cent grant funded. Due to varying grant provisions, the  
9 position is limited to work only within the scope of funded  
10 projects and is unable to address the needs and challenges of  
11 other industries supported by CTAHR's cooperative extension  
12 program. Additionally, upwards of thirty to forty-seven per  
13 cent of current grant funding is dedicated to salary and fringe  
14 benefits for project support staff, which reduces funding for  
15 educational events, applied research, travel for statewide  
16 outreach, equipment, and materials and supplies that could  
17 directly benefit local farmers and producers.

18 The legislature further finds that establishing a permanent  
19 educational support associate position will provide much needed  
20 support to extension faculty; enable the prioritization of  
21 research and community outreach projects throughout the State;



1 and support the Kona research station, which encompasses  
2 eighteen acres of projects related to coffee, including coffee  
3 leaf rust and coffee berry borer mitigation, as well as  
4 macadamia, avocado, temperate fruit and nut germplasm, two-lined  
5 spittlebug, tree pruning, grafting and propagation, organic and  
6 conventional pesticides, and nematode management.

7       Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish and  
8 fund one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) educational support  
9 associate position, within the university of Hawai'i college of  
10 tropical agriculture and human resources' coffee and orchard  
11 crops cooperative extension and applied research program, to  
12 provide administrative, professional, and technical support to  
13 the college's cooperative extension program, Kona research  
14 station, and the State's highly valued agricultural industries  
15 that are challenged with economically damaging pest, disease,  
16 and production issues.

17       SECTION 2. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of  
18 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,  
19 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the  
20 appropriations contained in Act 164, Regular Session of 2023,  
21 and this Act will cause the state general fund expenditure



1 ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by  
2 \$                    or                    per cent. This current declaration takes  
3 into account general fund appropriations authorized for fiscal  
4 year 2024-2025 in Act 164, Regular Session of 2023, and this Act  
5 only. The reasons for exceeding the general fund expenditure  
6 ceiling are that:

- 7           (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to  
8                   serve the public interest; and
- 9           (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs  
10                   addressed by this Act.

11           SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$76,570 or so much  
13 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for the  
14 establishment of one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) permanent  
15 educational support associate position within the university of  
16 Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and human resources' Kona  
17 cooperative extension to support the coffee and orchard crops  
18 extension and applied research program and the Kona research  
19 station in the county of Hawai'i.

20           The sum appropriated shall be expended by the university of  
21 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.



**Report Title:**

UH; CTAHR; Position; Establishment; Kona Cooperative Extension;  
Expenditure Ceiling; Appropriation

**Description:**

Makes an appropriation to establish one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) Educational Support Associate position within the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources' Kona Cooperative Extension. Declares that the general fund expenditure ceiling is exceeded. (SD1)

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