

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 that there are many
2 federal funding opportunities for agricultural purposes that
3 remain untapped or overlooked due to the lack of adequate grant
4 writing and grant administration capacity and expertise in the
5 department of agriculture. Establishing two program specialist
6 positions to seek and write grants, provide technical
7 assistance, provide grant program administration, perform needs
8 assessments, and make recommendations to the chairperson of
9 agriculture is critical for building and providing that
10 capability within the department of agriculture.

11 The legislature also finds that many of Hawaii's farmers,
12 ranchers, and other agricultural operators struggle to secure
13 the financial support necessary to establish a thriving, vibrant
14 business. Many small farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural
15 operators lack the necessary business and management expertise
16 to seek out and apply for the various sources of funding
17 available to them, including funding provided by the United



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1 States Department of Agriculture. To obtain grants from such
2 sources, applicants must complete an application process that is
3 sometimes arduous and complex. Without specific technical
4 expertise in grant writing, it is difficult for many small
5 farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural operators to obtain
6 those grants. In addition, certain requirements of the grants
7 may be difficult to understand and may lead to compliance issues
8 without appropriate grant administration and guidance.

9 The purpose of this Act is to establish and fund two full-
10 time program specialist positions within the department of
11 agriculture.

12 SECTION 2. There is established within the department of
13 agriculture two permanent full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) grant
14 specialist positions, which shall:

- 15 (1) Provide technical assistance;
- 16 (2) Provide grant program administration;
- 17 (3) Perform needs assessments;
- 18 (4) Make recommendations to the chairperson of the board
19 of agriculture; and
- 20 (5) Assist farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural
21 operators in applying for and obtaining grants offered



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1 by the United States Department of Agriculture and
2 other sources, as well as assist with fulfilling and
3 complying with the requirements of the grants.

4 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
6 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 to
7 carry out the purposes of this Act.

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

10 SECTION 4. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of
11 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,
12 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the
13 appropriations contained in H.B. No. , will cause the state
14 general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be
15 exceeded by \$ or per cent. In addition, the
16 appropriation contained in this Act will cause the general fund
17 expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be further
18 exceeded by \$ or per cent. The combined total
19 amount of general fund appropriations contained in only these
20 two Acts will cause the state general fund expenditure ceiling
21 for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by



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1 \$ or per cent. The reasons for exceeding the
2 general fund expenditure ceiling are that:

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

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

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

8

INTRODUCED BY:





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Report Title:

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

Description:

Establishes two permanent full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) grant specialist positions within the department of agriculture and appropriates moneys to fund the positions.

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

