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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that a sustainable food  
2 system is a food system in which producers, retailers, community  
3 members, non-governmental organizations, and government agencies  
4 partner to create a vibrant and resilient local food economy  
5 that enhances and sustains the environmental, economic, and  
6 social health of the community. The legislature further finds  
7 that the development of a more sustainable food system for the  
8 State represents an opportunity to create a new food economy  
9 that integrates the objectives of "green" job creation,  
10 sustainable economic development, land stewardship, food  
11 security, environmental protection, and climate change  
12 resiliency with community health and well-being.

13           Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

- 14           (1) Establish the sustainable food systems working group  
15           to develop an interagency food systems plan;  
16           (2) Require a report to the legislature before the regular  
17           session of 2025;



1 (3) Establish an unspecified number of positions within  
2 the department of agriculture; and

3 (4) Make an appropriation.

4 SECTION 2. (a) There is established the sustainable food  
5 systems working group within the department of agriculture for  
6 administrative purposes. The working group shall develop an  
7 interagency food systems plan that is linked to the United  
8 Nations sustainable development goals for a more sustainable,  
9 resilient local food economy that enhances and sustains the  
10 environmental, economic, and social health of the community.

11 (b) The chairperson of the board of agriculture, or the  
12 chairperson's designee, and the director of business, economic  
13 development, and tourism, or the director's designee, shall  
14 serve as co-chairs of the working group.

15 (c) One member of the house of representatives, to be  
16 selected by the speaker of the house of representatives, and one  
17 member of the senate, to be selected by the president of the  
18 senate, shall collaboratively select one representative with  
19 knowledge from each of the following areas to serve as working  
20 group members:

21 (1) Food as a human right and healthy food for all;



- 1 (2) Social equity and food justice;
- 2 (3) Food system resilience;
- 3 (4) Agriculture and food system sustainability;
- 4 (5) Food at the center of a circular economy;
- 5 (6) Sustainable education, workforce development, and fair
- 6 labor; and
- 7 (7) Good food governance.
- 8 (d) The interagency food systems plan shall:
- 9 (1) Identify a governance structure;
- 10 (2) Include a plan for implementation;
- 11 (3) Address the areas identified in subsection (c); and
- 12 (4) Incorporate any county food access plans.
- 13 (e) The working group shall submit the interagency food
- 14 systems plan and its recommendations for the implementation of
- 15 the plan, including any proposed legislation, to the legislature
- 16 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular
- 17 session of 2025.
- 18 (f) The department of agriculture shall provide any
- 19 necessary administrative support, including support for the
- 20 preparation of the interagency food systems plan identified in
- 21 subsection (d), to the working group.



1 (g) The working group shall be dissolved on June 30, 2025.

2 SECTION 3. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of  
3 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,  
4 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the  
5 appropriations contained in Act 164, Regular Session of 2023,  
6 and this Act will cause the state general fund expenditure  
7 ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by  
8 \$ or per cent. This current declaration takes  
9 into account general fund appropriations authorized for fiscal  
10 year 2024-2025 in Act 164, Regular Session of 2023, and this Act  
11 only. The reasons for exceeding the general fund expenditure  
12 ceiling are that:

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

15 (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs  
16 addressed by this Act.

17 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
19 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be  
20 allocated as follows:



1 (1) \$ for the establishment of full-  
2 time equivalent ( .0 FTE) sustainability  
3 specialist positions within the department of  
4 agriculture; and

5 (2) \$ for the establishment and operation of the  
6 sustainable food systems working group established  
7 pursuant to section 2 of this Act, including the  
8 coordination of stakeholder meetings; management of  
9 public meetings and website data in accordance with  
10 chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statutes; writing and  
11 printing of the interagency food systems plan; and  
12 potential purchase of services for a fee.

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

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



**Report Title:**

DOA; Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism;  
Sustainable Food Systems Working Group; Interagency Food Systems  
Plan; Report; Expenditure Ceiling; Positions; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group.  
Requires a report to the Legislature before the Regular Session  
of 2025. Declares that the general fund expenditure ceiling is  
exceeded. Establishes an unspecified number of positions within  
the Department of Agriculture. Makes an appropriation. (SD1)

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

