
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that in 2024, the
2 department of agriculture launched a statewide process to
3 address key economic challenges facing the agricultural sector.
4 Agricultural producers and organizations expressed the need for
5 a unified vision and strategic approach to advance the industry.
6 The department of agriculture recognizes its pivotal role in
7 this transformation and has developed short-term actions and a
8 long-term strategy aimed at addressing complex issues in 2025
9 and beyond.

10 The existing agricultural statistics program plays a
11 crucial role in providing agricultural producers and
12 policymakers with essential data to guide short-term decision-
13 making and long-term strategic planning. However, the
14 department of agriculture recognizes the agriculture sector's
15 challenges with accessing accurate and timely data. This Act
16 aims to modernize the collection, analysis, and dissemination of
17 agricultural statistics, leveraging electronic data collection



1 methods to provide critical insights into the movement of
2 agricultural goods into the State and between and within the
3 Hawaiian islands, and will include production, sales, and market
4 trends.

5 The objectives of this Act are to collect, analyze, and
6 report data on the production, distribution, and sale of select
7 agricultural products between and within the Hawaiian islands;
8 provide producers with the information needed to make informed
9 decisions about planting, scaling operations, and exploring new
10 market opportunities; provide other decision-makers with key
11 analysis of production, production opportunities, trends, and
12 growth; and support the strategic growth and development of
13 Hawaii's agricultural sector by enhancing the statistics
14 program's data collection, analysis, and reporting capabilities.

15 This Act will fill gaps in the department of agriculture's
16 role to gather, compile, and tabulate agricultural statistics
17 and will help fulfill its obligation under the cooperative
18 agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture,
19 ensuring robust data collection and reporting across the State.
20 The enhanced program will expand data collection on select
21 commodities, analyze trends, and identify growth opportunities



1 between and within the Hawaiian islands. These improvements
2 will help producers make better informed decisions on planting,
3 operations, and market expansion, while adapting to changing
4 conditions. State and county policymakers can further use the
5 data to better allocate public resources to support agriculture
6 and the public.

7 These efforts align with the "Go B.I.G. for Agriculture"
8 initiative to boost local product availability and expand market
9 capacity, driving broader economic impact. By providing
10 actionable means, this Act will help producers optimize their
11 strategies, reduce costs, and expand market reach, contributing
12 to economic stability for agricultural businesses and the
13 broader Hawaii community.

14 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to revitalize and
15 enhance the department of agriculture's agricultural statistics
16 program and drive forward a key initiative under the
17 department's "Go B.I.G. for Agriculture" initiative to buy local
18 products, invest in agriculture's development, and grow
19 agriculture's scale, ultimately advancing the State's broader
20 goals for sustainable and economically viable agriculture
21 grounded in the cultural heritage of Hawaii.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 148, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and
3 to read as follows:

4 "PART . AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

5 §148- Agricultural statistics program. The department
6 shall:

- 7 (1) Collect data, analyze, and report on the movement of
8 fresh fruit and vegetable products, between and within
9 the Hawaiian islands;
- 10 (2) Develop and maintain electronic systems for capturing
11 and analyzing data on the intra- and inter-island
12 movement of fresh fruit and vegetable products; and
- 13 (3) Establish a structured rotation schedule for sector-
14 specific surveys to collect data on agricultural
15 activities, including:
 - 16 (A) Agricultural theft;
 - 17 (B) Agricultural tourism;
 - 18 (C) Aquaculture;
 - 19 (D) Crop and livestock losses;
 - 20 (E) Farm technology;
 - 21 (F) Horticulture and nursery;



- 1 (G) Livestock numbers and productivity;
2 (H) Producer expansion;
3 (I) Seed;
4 (J) Tropical fruits;
5 (K) Vegetable and melons; and
6 (L) Other surveys, as determined by the department.

7 **§148- Exemption.** Data and information collected by the
8 department for the purposes of this part or collected, compiled,
9 and stored in the agricultural statistics program shall be
10 confidential and shall not be subject to discovery or to
11 disclosure under chapter 92F; provided that nothing in this
12 section shall preclude disclosure of such information in a
13 statistical or aggregate form that does not allow the
14 identification of an individual person or entity. The State
15 shall not be liable for any dissemination of information
16 collected, compiled, or stored for use in the agricultural
17 statistics program.

18 **§148- Collaboration.** (a) The department shall
19 collaborate with national and local entities, including the
20 United States Department of Agriculture National Agricultural
21 Statistics Service and Agricultural Marketing Service, United



1 States Bureau of Labor Statistics, university of Hawaii college
2 of tropical agriculture and human resilience, university of
3 Hawaii economic research organization, and other agencies, as
4 needed, to enhance data collection, analysis, and reporting
5 efforts.

6 (b) The department may establish partnerships with local
7 producers, transportation companies, aggregators, and
8 distributors to facilitate the electronic capture of and access
9 to other data sets."

10 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
12 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and
13 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
14 year 2026-2027 to carry out the purposes of this Act; provided
15 that the appropriated funds shall be allocated as follows:

16 (1) \$ for the establishment of full-time
17 equivalent (FTE) agricultural economist
18 positions;

19 (2) \$ for the establishment of full-time
20 equivalent (FTE) research statistician positions;



1 (3) \$ for the establishment of secured office
2 space, equipment, the development of electronic data
3 collection systems, and program expenses for the
4 islands of Hawaii, Kauai, Lanai, Maui, Molokai, and
5 Oahu; and

6 (4) \$ for contracted specialty surveys to be
7 conducted by third-party entities focusing on critical
8 agricultural data needs.

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

11 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



H.B. NO. 1393 H.D. 1

Report Title:

Agricultural Statistics; Data; Department of Agriculture;
Appropriation

Description:

Requires the Department of Agriculture to revitalize and enhance the agricultural statistics program to collect data on local agricultural interests. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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