
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FARMS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State has
2 struggled to attract young people into the agricultural sector.
3 Hawaii has the oldest farmers in the United States, with twice
4 as many farmers over the age of seventy-five as there are under
5 thirty-five.

6 The legislature further finds that as of 2022, most of the
7 State's over seven thousand farms are small operations bearing
8 not much financial fruit, with nearly eighty per cent having
9 annual sales under \$25,000.

10 As the State seeks to achieve overlapping goals of reducing
11 reliance on imports, diversifying our economy, and increasing
12 local food production, it is critical to incentivize the
13 rejuvenation of our State's agricultural sector, especially
14 among younger generations.

15 The legislature finds that a partial tax exclusion for such
16 businesses will not significantly affect existing tax revenue



1 collected but will strengthen the State's economy and improve
2 the long-term economic well-being of the State as a whole.

3 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to create an
4 exclusion from income tax for the first \$50,000 of income earned
5 by farmers in order to encourage the growth of small,
6 diversified farming businesses.

7 SECTION 2. Section 235-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
8 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

9 "(a) There shall be excluded from gross income, adjusted
10 gross income, and taxable income:

11 (1) Income not subject to taxation by the State under the
12 Constitution and laws of the United States;

13 (2) Rights, benefits, and other income exempted from
14 taxation by section 88-91, having to do with the state
15 retirement system, and the rights, benefits, and other
16 income, comparable to the rights, benefits, and other
17 income exempted by section 88-91, under any other
18 public retirement system;

19 (3) Any compensation received in the form of a pension for
20 past services;



- 1 (4) Compensation paid to a patient affected with Hansen's
2 disease employed by the State or the United States in
3 any hospital, settlement, or place for the treatment
4 of Hansen's disease;
- 5 (5) Except as otherwise expressly provided, payments made
6 by the United States or this State, under an act of
7 Congress or a law of this State, which by express
8 provision or administrative regulation or
9 interpretation are exempt from both the normal and
10 surtaxes of the United States, even though not so
11 exempted by the Internal Revenue Code itself;
- 12 (6) Any income expressly exempted or excluded from the
13 measure of the tax imposed by this chapter by any
14 other law of the State, it being the intent of this
15 chapter not to repeal or supersede any express
16 exemption or exclusion;
- 17 (7) Income received by each member of the reserve
18 components of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps,
19 or Coast Guard of the United States of America, and
20 the Hawaii National Guard as compensation for
21 performance of duty, equivalent to pay received for



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1 forty-eight drills (equivalent of twelve weekends) and
2 fifteen days of annual duty, at an:

3 (A) E-1 pay grade after eight years of service;
4 provided that this subparagraph shall apply to
5 taxable years beginning after December 31, 2004;

6 (B) E-2 pay grade after eight years of service;
7 provided that this subparagraph shall apply to
8 taxable years beginning after December 31, 2005;

9 (C) E-3 pay grade after eight years of service;
10 provided that this subparagraph shall apply to
11 taxable years beginning after December 31, 2006;

12 (D) E-4 pay grade after eight years of service;
13 provided that this subparagraph shall apply to
14 taxable years beginning after December 31, 2007;
15 and

16 (E) E-5 pay grade after eight years of service;
17 provided that this subparagraph shall apply to
18 taxable years beginning after December 31, 2008;

19 (8) Income derived from the operation of ships or aircraft
20 if the income is exempt under the Internal Revenue
21 Code pursuant to the provisions of an income tax



1 treaty or agreement entered into by and between the
2 United States and a foreign country; provided that the
3 tax laws of the local governments of that country
4 reciprocally exempt from the application of all of
5 their net income taxes, the income derived from the
6 operation of ships or aircraft that are documented or
7 registered under the laws of the United States;

8 (9) The value of legal services provided by a legal
9 service plan to a taxpayer, the taxpayer's spouse, and
10 the taxpayer's dependents;

11 (10) Amounts paid, directly or indirectly, by a legal
12 service plan to a taxpayer as payment or reimbursement
13 for the provision of legal services to the taxpayer,
14 the taxpayer's spouse, and the taxpayer's dependents;

15 (11) Contributions by an employer to a legal service plan
16 for compensation (through insurance or otherwise) to
17 the employer's employees for the costs of legal
18 services incurred by the employer's employees, their
19 spouses, and their dependents;

20 (12) Amounts received in the form of a monthly surcharge by
21 a utility acting on behalf of an affected utility



1 under section 269-16.3; provided that amounts retained
2 by the acting utility for collection or other costs
3 shall not be included in this exemption;

4 (13) Amounts received in the form of a cable surcharge by
5 an electric utility company acting on behalf of a
6 certified cable company under section 269-134;
7 provided that any amounts retained by that electric
8 utility company for collection or other costs shall
9 not be included in this exemption; and

10 (14) One hundred per cent of the gain realized by a fee
11 simple owner from the sale of a leased fee interest in
12 units within a condominium project, cooperative
13 project, or planned unit development to the
14 association of owners under chapter 514A or 514B, or
15 the residential cooperative corporation of the
16 leasehold units.

17 For purposes of this paragraph:

18 "Fee simple owner" shall have the same meaning as
19 provided under section 516-1; provided that it shall
20 include legal and equitable owners;

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1 "Legal and equitable owner", and "leased fee
2 interest" shall have the same meanings as provided
3 under section 516-1; and

4 "Condominium project" and "cooperative project"
5 shall have the same meanings as provided under section
6 514C-1[~~-~~]; and

7 (15) The first \$50,000 of income earned by a farmer.

8 For purposes of this paragraph:

9 "Farm products" means production from
10 agricultural activities described in section
11 205-4.5(a)(1), (2), and (3); and

12 "Farmer" means an individual earning more than
13 seventy-five per cent of the individual's gross income
14 from farm products."

15 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
16 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

17 SECTION 4. This Act, upon its approval, shall apply to
18 taxable years beginning after December 31, 2025.

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INTRODUCED BY:

JAN 23 2025



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Report Title:

Economic Diversification; Agriculture; Farmer; Tax Exclusion

Description:

Creates an exclusion from income tax for the first \$50,000 of income earned by farmers.

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