
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 the agricultural
2 industry in Hawaii has been significantly affected by climate
3 change, globalization, the influx of devastating invasive
4 species and diseases, market conditions, a lack of agricultural
5 workers, and various other factors. The legislature further
6 finds that the State must modernize and adapt its policies and
7 laws accordingly. The legislature also finds that unnecessary
8 or obsolete sections of the Hawaii Revised Statutes are actually
9 impeding the growth and success of agriculture in Hawaii and
10 should be carefully reviewed to ensure that this important part
11 of the islands' economy and way of life can survive and thrive
12 into the future.

13 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to establish and
14 appropriate funds for a working group within the department of
15 agriculture to review and make recommendations on amending or
16 repealing unnecessary or obsolete laws pertaining to
17 agriculture.



1 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the department
2 of agriculture a working group to review and make
3 recommendations on amending or repealing unnecessary or obsolete
4 laws pertaining to agriculture.

5 (b) The working group shall consist of the following
6 members:

7 (1) The chairperson of the board of agriculture, or the
8 chairperson's designee, who shall serve as the
9 chairperson of the working group;

10 (2) The chairperson of the board of land and natural
11 resources, or the chairperson's designee;

12 (3) The director of business, economic development, and
13 tourism, or the director's designee;

14 (4) The executive director of the agribusiness development
15 corporation, or the executive director's designee;

16 (5) The chairperson of the land use commission, or the
17 chairperson's designee;

18 (6) The chairperson of the commission on water resource
19 management, or the chairperson's designee;

20 (7) The director of the office of planning and sustainable
21 development, or the director's designee;



- 1 (8) A representative of the office of the mayor of the
- 2 city and county of Honolulu;
- 3 (9) A representative of the office of the mayor of the
- 4 county of Hawaii;
- 5 (10) A representative of the office of the mayor of the
- 6 county of Kauai;
- 7 (11) A representative of the office of the mayor of the
- 8 county of Maui;
- 9 (12) The executive director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau, or
- 10 the executive director's designee, who shall be
- 11 invited by the chairperson of the working group;
- 12 (13) The executive director of the Hawaii Agriculture
- 13 Research Center, or the executive director's designee,
- 14 who shall be invited by the chairperson of the working
- 15 group;
- 16 (14) The managing director of Hawaii Cattlemen's Council,
- 17 Inc., or the managing director's designee, who shall
- 18 be invited by the chairperson of the working group;
- 19 and



1 (15) The president of the Hawaii Farmers Union United, or
2 the president's designee, who shall be invited by the
3 chairperson of the working group.

4 (c) The working group shall review and make
5 recommendations on amending or repealing unnecessary or obsolete
6 laws pertaining to agriculture, including:

7 (1) Restrictions on leases of state agricultural land that
8 prohibit a residence on the property;

9 (2) Restrictions on leases of state agricultural land that
10 prohibit the raising of poultry and swine on the
11 property;

12 (3) Caps on agricultural operation loan rates;

13 (4) Regulations governing agricultural workforce
14 development and farm labor access;

15 (5) Water access and permitting; and

16 (6) Procurement policies that impact the use of locally
17 grown food in state institutions.

18 (d) The issues identified in subsection (c) shall not be
19 construed to limit the laws pertaining to agriculture that the
20 working group may consider for review and recommendation.



1 (e) Members of the working group who are employed by the
2 State and serving in their official capacity on the working
3 group shall serve without compensation. Other members of the
4 working group who are not employed by the State shall receive
5 compensation for their travel expenses.

6 (f) The working group shall submit a report of its
7 findings and recommendations, including any proposed
8 legislation, regarding its review of unnecessary or obsolete
9 laws pertaining to agriculture to the legislature no later than
10 twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of
11 2026.

12 (g) The working group shall cease to exist on June 30,
13 2026.

14 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
16 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 for
17 the working group established pursuant to section 2 of this Act.

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

20 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

DOA; Working Group; Report; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes within the Department of Agriculture a working group to review and make recommendations on amending or repealing unnecessary or obsolete laws pertaining to agriculture. Requires a report to the Legislature. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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

