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# 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 the department of  
2 agriculture's existing agricultural statistics program plays a  
3 crucial role in providing producers and policymakers with  
4 essential data to guide short-term decision-making and long-term  
5 strategic planning. In fact, the department of agriculture has  
6 a statutory duty, and a contractual obligation with the United  
7 States Department of Agriculture, to ensure robust data  
8 collection and reporting across the State. However, the  
9 department has experienced several shortcomings in the  
10 agricultural statistics program, including limited access to  
11 accurate and timely agricultural data and outdated collection,  
12 analysis, and dissemination of agricultural statistics, which  
13 results in limited insights to data that is critical to the  
14 movement of agricultural goods into and within the State.

15           The legislature further finds that in 2024, the department  
16 of agriculture launched a statewide process to address key  
17 economic challenges facing the agricultural sector and developed



1 short-term actions and a long-term strategy aimed at addressing  
2 the shortcomings of its statistics program and other goals, such  
3 as boosting local product availability and expanding market  
4 capacity. The objectives of the long-term strategy are to:

- 5 (1) Collect, analyze, and report data and trends on the  
6 intra- and inter-island production, distribution, and  
7 sale of select agricultural products;
- 8 (2) Provide producers with the information needed to make  
9 informed decisions about planning, scaling operations,  
10 and exploring new growth or market opportunities;
- 11 (3) Provide other decisionmakers with key analyses of  
12 production and production opportunities, trends, and  
13 growth to better allocate public resources to support  
14 agriculture and the public; and
- 15 (4) Support the strategic growth and development of  
16 Hawaii's agricultural sector by enhancing the  
17 statistics program's data collection, analysis, and  
18 reporting capabilities.

19 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to revitalize and  
20 enhance the department of agriculture's agricultural statistics



1 program by statutorily establishing an agricultural statistics  
2 program and appropriating funds for the program.

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

6 "PART . AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

7 §148- Agricultural statistics program. The department  
8 of agriculture shall:

9 (1) Collect data, provide analysis, and report on the  
10 intra- and inter-island transportation of fresh fruit  
11 and vegetable products;

12 (2) Develop and maintain electronic systems for capturing  
13 and analyzing data on the intra- and inter-island  
14 transportation of fresh fruit and vegetable products;  
15 and

16 (3) Establish a structured rotation schedule for expanded,  
17 consistent, sector-specific surveys to collect  
18 comprehensive data on key agricultural activities,  
19 including:

20 (A) Agricultural theft;

21 (B) Agricultural tourism;



- 1 (C) Aquaculture;  
2 (D) Crop and livestock losses;  
3 (E) Farm technology;  
4 (F) Horticulture and nursery;  
5 (G) Livestock numbers and productivity;  
6 (H) Producer expansion;  
7 (I) Seed;  
8 (J) Tropical fruits;  
9 (K) Vegetables and melons; and  
10 (L) Other surveys as may be determined necessary.

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



1           §148-       **Collaboration; partnerships.** The department of  
2 agriculture may:

3           (1) Collaborate with national and local entities,  
4                 including the following, to enhance data collection,  
5                 analyses, and reporting efforts:

6                 (A) The United States Department of Agriculture;

7                 (B) The United States National Agricultural  
8                         Statistics Service;

9                 (C) The United States Agricultural Marketing Service;

10                (D) The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics;

11                (E) The University of Hawaii college of tropical  
12                         agriculture and human resilience;

13                (F) The University of Hawaii economic research  
14                         organization; and

15                (G) Other state agencies as needed; and

16           (2) Establish partnerships with local producers,  
17                 transportation companies, aggregators, and  
18                 distributors to facilitate the electronic capture of  
19                 and access to other data sets."

20           SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                         or so



1 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and  
2 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
3 year 2026-2027 for the following:

4 (1) \$ for the establishment of full-time  
5 equivalent ( FTE) agricultural economist  
6 positions;

7 (2) \$ for the establishment of full-time  
8 equivalent ( FTE) research statistician  
9 positions;

10 (3) \$ for the establishment of secured office  
11 space, equipment, the development of electronic data  
12 collection systems, and program expenses for six  
13 islands; and

14 (4) \$ for contracted specialty surveys to be  
15 conducted by third-party entities, focusing on  
16 critical agricultural data needs.

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

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



**Report Title:**

DOA; Agricultural Statistics Program; Positions; Appropriations

**Description:**

Requires the Department of Agriculture to revitalize and enhance the Agricultural Statistics Program to collect data on local agricultural interests. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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

