

JAN 17 2025

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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 the State is  
2 committed to promoting sustainable economic development,  
3 enhancing local food production, improving access to healthy  
4 food, promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation,  
5 minimizing food waste, and reducing food insecurity. This  
6 commitment is evident through initiatives such as:

- 7           (1) The Hawaii sustainability 2050 plan highlights  
8           Hawaii's overall economic, climate, and food system-  
9           related goals;
- 10          (2) Act 151, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019, which mandates  
11          doubling local food production and increasing food  
12          exports by 2030; and
- 13          (3) Acts 175 and 176, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021, which  
14          establish goals for local food procurement in schools  
15          and other government entities, with a target of fifty  
16          per cent locally sourced food by 2050.



1           Despite these efforts and more, high food insecurity and  
2 barriers to local food production in Hawaii remain. According  
3 to a recent report by the Hawaii Food Bank, nearly one-third of  
4 households are food insecure, and food insecurity rates are  
5 consistently higher than the national average. Additionally, a  
6 recent study found that only twelve per cent of households  
7 maintain a fourteen-day emergency supply of food, water, and  
8 medicine, as recommended by emergency managers.

9           The legislature further finds that achieving a sustainable,  
10 resilient, and equitable food system requires collaboration  
11 across state agencies, producers, retailers, non-governmental  
12 organizations, and community members. Such a system can enhance  
13 environmental, economic, social, and cultural health, well-  
14 being, and equity while also responding effectively to disasters  
15 and crises. Interagency coordination and an integrated approach  
16 are essential to maximizing efficiencies and achieving impact.

17           Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish a  
18 statewide interagency food systems coordination team and an  
19 interagency food systems working group within the department of  
20 agriculture.



1 SECTION 2. (a) There is established the statewide  
2 interagency food systems coordination team within the department  
3 of agriculture for administrative purposes. The statewide  
4 interagency food systems coordination team shall develop and  
5 oversee the interagency food systems working group established  
6 under subsection (b) and a planning process to implement  
7 interagency food systems plans and actions.

8 (b) There is established an interagency food systems  
9 working group within the department of agriculture for  
10 administrative purposes, whose members shall include but not be  
11 limited to:

12 (1) The chairperson of the board of agriculture, or the  
13 chairperson's designee, and the director of business,  
14 economic development, and tourism, or the director's  
15 designee, who shall serve as co-chairs of the working  
16 group;

17 (2) One member of the house of representatives, to be  
18 selected by the speaker of the house of  
19 representatives;

20 (3) One member of the senate, to be selected by the  
21 president of the senate;



1 (4) One representative from the department of education;

2 (5) One representative from the department of health;

3 (6) One representative from the office of Hawaiian  
4 affairs;

5 (7) One representative from the office of planning and  
6 sustainable development; and

7 (8) One representative from the agribusiness development  
8 corporation.

9 (c) The co-chairs may invite other representatives of  
10 interested organizations with relevant experience and expertise  
11 to participate in the interagency food systems working group, as  
12 necessary.

13 (d) The interagency food systems working group shall:

14 (1) Develop governance, decision-making, and operating  
15 protocols;

16 (2) Coordinate with county and community-led food systems  
17 planning processes;

18 (3) Identify resources for interagency coordination and  
19 implementation;

20 (4) Develop internal and external communication processes;



1 (5) Create time-bound implementation plans and ways of  
2 measuring progress toward statewide food system goals;  
3 and

4 (6) Utilize policy impact analysis tools to evaluate  
5 proposed actions.

6 (e) The interagency food systems working group shall  
7 submit a report of its activities and any recommendations,  
8 including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later  
9 than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session.

10 (f) The department of agriculture shall provide any  
11 necessary administrative support to the statewide interagency  
12 food systems coordination team and the interagency food systems  
13 working group established under this section.

14 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$944,100 or so much  
16 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the  
17 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
18 2026-2027 to be allocated as follows:

19 (1) \$399,300 for the establishment of one full-time  
20 equivalent (1.0 FTE) food system specialist position  
21 within the department of agriculture;





# S.B. NO. 1186

**Report Title:**

DOA; Statewide Interagency Food Systems Coordination Team;  
Interagency Food Systems Working Group; Reports; Positions;  
Appropriations

**Description:**

Establishes the Statewide Interagency Food Systems Coordination Team and the Interagency Food Systems Working Group within the Department of Agriculture. Requires reports to the Legislature. Establishes positions. Appropriates funds.

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

