

JAN 23 2025

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that agricultural
2 education is essential for fostering an understanding of
3 sustainable practices and food security among students in grades
4 kindergarten through twelve. Hawaii's unique geographical
5 location and cultural heritage make it imperative to promote
6 agricultural education to ensure the sustainability of local
7 food systems and the preservation of traditional farming
8 practices.

9 The legislature further finds that the State faces several
10 challenges that underscore the need for dedicated agricultural
11 education programs. As a remote island state, Hawaii imports
12 approximately eighty-five to ninety per cent of food, making the
13 State susceptible to supply chain disruptions. Further, the
14 State's natural resources are finite, making natural resource
15 management a significant priority for the future of the
16 agricultural industry. While there is potential for agriculture
17 to become a major industry for the State, creation of strong



1 agricultural education programs are necessary to ensure
2 longevity and continued growth. Investing in agricultural
3 education can also lead to diverse economic opportunities,
4 contributing to the State's economic growth and resilience.

5 The legislature also finds that the health and well-being
6 of Hawaii's people is of paramount importance. Presently,
7 efforts to revitalize Native Hawaiian traditional and customary
8 practices, including cultivation of taro and maintenance of
9 fishponds (loko ia), have contributed to the preservation of
10 these practices. Further, the growth of the agricultural
11 industry through farming and cultivation of native plant species
12 has the potential to create healthier lifestyles for Hawaii's
13 people.

14 The legislature recognizes that several states have
15 introduced similar legislation and programs to support
16 agricultural education and land dedication. California,
17 Florida, Iowa, New York, and Texas have implemented programs to
18 expand access to agricultural education programs among students,
19 emphasizing the growing support for agriculture and
20 sustainability. The State has the potential to become an
21 innovator in agriculture and education based on geography,



1 unique natural resources, and incorporation of Native Hawaiian
2 history and traditional and customary practices.

3 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish the
4 land dedication for agricultural education program to require
5 real estate developers to dedicate a portion of land for
6 agricultural education programs within the department of
7 education.

8 SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
9 amended by adding a new subpart to part VI to be appropriately
10 designated and to read as follows:

11 **"SUBPART . LAND DEDICATION FOR AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.**

12 **§302A-A Definitions.** As used in this part:

13 "Agricultural education" means educational programs and
14 activities that focus on the principles and practices of
15 agriculture, including but not limited to crop cultivation,
16 animal husbandry, and sustainable farming.

17 "Dedicated land" means land set aside by real estate
18 developers for the purpose of agricultural education.

19 "Real estate developer" means any person or entity
20 undertaking a development project that requires land dedication
21 as a condition of approval.



1 **§302A-B Land dedication; requirements; uses.** (a) Any
2 real estate developer required to make a land dedication as a
3 condition of a development project shall dedicate the land for
4 the purpose of agricultural education for students in grades
5 kindergarten through twelve, in addition to or in lieu of
6 cemetery purposes, historic preservation, public recreation, and
7 open spaces.

8 (b) This part shall apply to all development projects that
9 require land dedication as a condition of approval. Exemptions
10 may be granted by the department in cases where land dedication
11 for agricultural education is not feasible.

12 **§302A-C Curriculum; training opportunities.** (a) The
13 department shall develop and implement agricultural education
14 programs, including school gardens, agricultural science
15 laboratories, farm-to-school programs, educational workshops and
16 field trips, and sustainable farming practices demonstrations.
17 Provisions for student-led projects, internships, and leadership
18 opportunities shall be included to foster engagement and
19 ownership. Research and development in agricultural education
20 shall be promoted to keep the curriculum updated with the latest
21 advancements and best practices.



1 (b) The department, in collaboration with the department
2 of agriculture, shall oversee the implementation and maintenance
3 of agricultural education programs on the dedicated land. The
4 department shall develop guidelines and standards for the use of
5 the dedicated land to ensure that it meets the educational needs
6 of students in grades kindergarten through twelve and promote
7 sustainable agricultural practices. The department shall
8 provide ongoing support and resources to schools utilizing the
9 dedicated land for agricultural education programs, including
10 grants and subsidies.

11 (c) The department shall:

12 (1) Encourage collaboration with local farmers,
13 agricultural organizations, and educational
14 institutions; and

15 (2) Promote active student involvement in the planning and
16 implementation of agricultural education programs.

17 **§302A-D Sustainability curriculum; indigenous knowledge;**

18 **disaster preparedness training.** (a) The importance of
19 sustainability and environmental stewardship shall be emphasized
20 in the agricultural education programs. The department shall
21 include the teaching of sustainable farming practices,



1 conservation techniques, and the importance of biodiversity.
2 The department shall emphasize the impacts of climate change on
3 agriculture and the implementation of sustainable practices as a
4 mitigation strategy.

5 (b) The curriculum shall include indigenous agricultural
6 knowledge and practices in relation to sustainable farming. The
7 department shall provide opportunities for integrating modern
8 technology into agricultural education, including but not
9 limited to the use of drones for monitoring crops, hydroponics,
10 and aquaponics systems, or virtual reality for farm simulations.

11 (c) The department shall incorporate training on disaster
12 preparedness and resilience, particularly in relation to
13 agricultural practices and food security. The department shall
14 also include training on the mental health challenges faced by
15 individuals in the agricultural sector, including support
16 services for students and educators involved in agricultural
17 education.

18 **§302A-E Professional development; educators.** The
19 department shall provide opportunities for teachers and
20 educators to receive professional development and training in



1 agricultural education including but not limited to workshops,
2 seminars, and certification programs.

3 **§302A-F Developer responsibilities.** The dedicated land
4 shall be of sufficient size and suitable location to support
5 agricultural education programs. Real estate developers shall
6 be responsible for the initial preparation and infrastructure
7 development of the dedicated land, including but not limited to
8 soil preparation, irrigation systems, and fencing. The land
9 shall include necessary infrastructure and facilities, such as
10 irrigation systems, greenhouses, and classrooms.

11 **§302A-G Partnerships; community involvement.** (a) The
12 department shall encourage partnerships with local farms,
13 agricultural organizations, universities, research institutions,
14 and food production companies to provide students with hands-on
15 learning experiences and internships. The department shall
16 include collaboration with community groups and nonprofits to
17 support program implementation and sustainability.

18 (b) The department shall encourage community involvement
19 and input in the planning and implementation of agricultural
20 education programs. Public meetings and feedback sessions shall
21 be held to gather input from local stakeholders. The department



1 shall promote community outreach and engagement to raise public
2 awareness about the benefits of agricultural education. The
3 department shall host community events, open houses, and
4 volunteer opportunities to involve the broader community.

5 **§302A-H Land dedication special fund.** (a) There is
6 established within the state treasury a special fund to be known
7 as the land dedication special fund into which shall be
8 deposited:

- 9 (1) Appropriations by the legislature to the special fund;
- 10 (2) Gifts, donations, and grants from public agencies and
11 private persons; and
- 12 (3) Moneys derived from interest, dividends, or other
13 income from other sources.

14 (b) The special fund shall be used for innovative
15 agricultural projects proposed by students and educators to
16 encourage creative solutions to local agricultural challenges.

17 **§302A-I Reporting.** (a) The department shall establish a
18 system for regular monitoring, evaluation, and feedback from
19 students, educators, and community members of the agricultural
20 education programs to ensure compliance in accordance with this
21 subpart. Periodic assessments and adjustments shall be made



1 based on feedback and outcomes. The department shall require
2 regular reporting on the status and outcomes of the agricultural
3 education programs. Reports shall be made publicly available to
4 ensure transparency and accountability.

5 (b) The department shall submit a report of its findings
6 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
7 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
8 each regular session."

9 SECTION 3. The department of education shall consult with
10 the department of taxation to determine tax incentives for real
11 estate developers who dedicate land for the agricultural
12 education program established pursuant to section 2 of this Act.
13 The department of education shall include all proposed tax
14 incentives in its reports pursuant to section 302A-I, Hawaii
15 Revised Statutes.

16 SECTION 4. The department of education shall consult with
17 the department of the attorney general to determine penalties
18 commensurate with violations of the land dedication requirements
19 for the agricultural education program established pursuant to
20 section 2 of this Act. The department of education shall



1 include all proposed penalties in the reports required pursuant
2 to section 302A-I, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

3 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
5 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and
6 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
7 year 2026-2027 to be deposited into the land dedication special
8 fund.

9 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the land
10 dedication special fund the sum of \$ or so much
11 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the
12 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
13 2026-2027 for the establishment and operation of the land
14 dedication for agricultural education program established
15 pursuant to section 302A-H, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

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

18 SECTION 7. In codifying the new sections added by
19 section 2 of this Act, the revisor of statutes shall substitute
20 appropriate section numbers for the letters used in designating
21 the new sections in this Act.



1 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

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INTRODUCED BY:

Mike Hubbard



H.B. NO. 1259

Report Title:

DOE; DOTAX; AG; Land Dedication for Education; Land Dedication Special Fund; Agricultural Education; Developers; Tax Incentives; Penalties; Reports; Appropriations

Description:

Establishes the Land Dedication for Agricultural Education program within the Department of Education. Requires the Department of Education to consult with the Department of Taxation to establish tax incentives for land developers who dedicate land for educational purposes. Requires the Department of Education to consult with the Department of the Attorney General to establish penalties. Requires annual reports to the Legislature. 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.

