

JAN 15 2025

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL GRANTS.

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

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 141, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately  
3 designated and to read as follows:

4           "§141-       Conventional farming grant program.   (a) There  
5 is established within the department of agriculture the  
6 conventional farming grant program.

7           (b) Subject to available funds, the conventional farming  
8 grant program shall provide grants to small and mid-sized farms  
9 that predominately practice conventional farming.

10          (c) Each grant application shall be evaluated by the board  
11 of agriculture and shall be approved if it satisfies the  
12 following requirements:

13          (1) The applicant shall be an owner of a small farm or  
14             mid-sized farm;

15          (2) If the applicant is an entity other than an  
16             individual, the applicant shall:

17             (A) Be licensed to conduct business in the State; and



- 1           (B) Has adopted bylaws or policies that describe the  
2           manner in which business is conducted, prohibit  
3           nepotism, and provide for the management of  
4           potential conflicts of interest;
- 5       (3) The applicant shall comply with all applicable federal  
6       and state laws prohibiting discrimination against any  
7       person on the basis of race, color, national origin,  
8       religion, creed, sex, age, sexual orientation,  
9       disability, or any other characteristic protected  
10       under applicable federal or state law;
- 11       (4) Grant moneys shall not be used for purposes of  
12       entertainment or perquisites;
- 13       (5) All activities and improvements undertaken with grant  
14       funds shall comply with applicable federal, state, and  
15       county laws, including statutes, ordinances,  
16       applicable building codes, and rules;
- 17       (6) The applicant shall agree to make available to the  
18       department of agriculture any records relating to the  
19       grant and allow state agencies to verify the  
20       applicant's compliance with the purpose of this  
21       section; and



1       (7) The applicant shall comply with other requirements or  
2           conditions as the department of agriculture or board  
3           of agriculture may prescribe.

4       (d) For the purposes of this section:

5       "Conventional farming" means growing crops from seeds that  
6       have been genetically altered using any traditional breeding  
7       method, excluding biotechnology, and that are not certified as  
8       organic.

9       "Gross cash farm income" means sum of the farm's crop and  
10       livestock sales, government payments, and other farm-related  
11       income, including fee payments from contractors.

12       "Midsize farm" means a farm having an annual gross cash  
13       farm income of \$350,000 to \$999,999; provided that, upon  
14       approval by the board of agriculture, the department of  
15       agriculture may apply a higher annual gross cash farm income  
16       amount consistent with the term "midsize farm" or "midsize  
17       family farm" as defined by the United States Department of  
18       Agriculture, Economic Research Service, in a farm typology  
19       publication or related update.

20       "Small farm" means a farm having an annual gross cash farm  
21       income of less than \$350,000; provided that, upon approval by



1 the board of agriculture, the department of agriculture may  
2 apply a higher annual gross cash farm income amount consistent  
3 with the term "small farm" or "small family farm" as defined by  
4 the United States Department of Agriculture, Economic Research  
5 Service, in a farm typology publication or related update."

6 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$5,000,000 or so much  
8 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the  
9 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
10 2026-2027 for the conventional farming grant program.

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

13 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

14 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

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INTRODUCED BY: *Igor DuCote*



**Report Title:**

HDOA; Conventional Farming; Grants; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes the conventional farming grant program to provide grants to small and midsize farmers who practice conventional farming. Appropriates moneys.

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

