
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 absence of a
2 clear and comprehensive definition for "bona fide farmer" in the
3 State has several far-reaching impacts, including
4 inconsistencies in allocating agricultural resources, confusion
5 in implementing tax and land use policies, and difficulties in
6 achieving sustainable agricultural goals. Establishing clear,
7 universal definitions for the term "bona fide farmer" and "bona
8 fide agricultural activity" would provide a foundation for more
9 effective policy implementation, ensure that resources are
10 directed to those truly engaged in farming, and help the State
11 achieve its agricultural and environmental objectives.

12 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require the
13 board of agriculture to define the terms "bona fide farmer" and
14 "bona fide agricultural activity".

15 SECTION 2. (a) The board of agriculture shall draft
16 comprehensive definitions for the terms "bona fide farmer" and



1 "bona fide agricultural activity" to be placed in section 141-1,
2 Hawaii Revised Statutes.

3 (b) The definition for "bona fide farmer" shall outline
4 the following criteria:

- 5 (1) Minimum income threshold;
- 6 (2) Primary occupation;
- 7 (3) Farm size or scale; and
- 8 (4) Commercial focus.

9 The definition for "bona fide farmer" shall also include
10 the term "bona fide agricultural activity".

11 (c) The board of agriculture shall solicit and incorporate
12 stakeholder input in drafting the definitions required under
13 subsection (a).

14 (d) The department of agriculture shall submit a report of
15 the drafted definitions for the terms "bona fide farmer" and
16 "bona fide agricultural activity", including any proposed
17 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
18 to the convening of the regular session of 2026.

19 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

BOA; Bona Fide Farmer; Bona Fide Agricultural Activity;
Definitions; Report

Description:

Requires the Board of Agriculture to define the terms "bona fide farmer" and "bona fide agricultural activity". Requires a report to the Legislature. (SD1)

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