
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL CRIMES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that in 2019, the United
2 States Department of Agriculture recorded a total estimated loss
3 of \$14.4 million nationwide from theft and vandalism within the
4 agricultural sector. Trespass and the theft of farm equipment,
5 agricultural products, commodities, livestock and cattle, and
6 other related resources, in addition to illegal hunting and
7 poaching, are some of the traditionally reported crimes in the
8 agricultural sector. However, recent reports of violent crimes
9 and fatal shootings on agricultural land on Oahu's leeward coast
10 have highlighted the severity of the challenges facing the State
11 in how to effectively mitigate and prevent agricultural crimes.

12 The legislature additionally finds that the State lacks a
13 dedicated law enforcement unit designed and equipped to address
14 the unique and specific types of crimes that occur within the
15 agricultural sector. Often, these crimes occur in rural and
16 geographically isolated locations, making it challenging to
17 timely respond to and adequately address reports of the crimes.



1 Moreover, it can be burdensome, if not impossible, for large
2 tracts of land, farms, and ranches to implement traditional
3 crime deterrence methods, such as adequate lighting and fencing,
4 alarm systems, surveillance, and private security or increased
5 police presence. Low police staffing and watch strength in
6 rural locations can exacerbate already existing limitations in
7 security measures for farmers and adds to the vulnerability of
8 these agricultural properties.

9 The legislature recognizes that, while agricultural lands
10 are included as a category in many of the State's laws
11 establishing certain crimes, limited resources make it difficult
12 to respond to these crimes effectively. Further, due to these
13 limited resources, traditional enforcement efforts tend to
14 prioritize more high-profile violent crimes, resulting in a low
15 prosecution rate for agricultural crimes. This is evidenced by
16 the fact that agricultural crimes are typically included in
17 general crime statistics reported by various law enforcement
18 agencies, which often makes it challenging to gather important
19 data pertinent specifically to agricultural crimes. Despite
20 statistics that have been made available through self-reporting,
21 prosecution rates for agricultural crimes remain low.



1 The legislature further finds that certain counties in
2 California with large agricultural-based economies have had
3 success in implementing crime prevention programs to address the
4 issues related to agricultural crimes through targeted
5 enforcement and prevention strategies, including the utilization
6 of a centralized database to track incidents of agricultural
7 crime, analyze trends, and share intelligence among agencies to
8 enable a swift response to emerging threats. These programs
9 have also contributed to efforts in advocating for legislative
10 changes to strengthen agricultural laws and penalties and
11 shaping policies that reflect the importance of protecting the
12 agricultural industry.

13 It is therefore the legislature's intent to establish a
14 similar program through the creation of the Hawaii agricultural
15 crimes council to help the State address resource limitations
16 and enforcement capabilities, enhance data collection, identify
17 and mitigate criminality, provide education and awareness, and
18 restore public trust in law enforcement to adequately prosecute
19 agricultural crimes.

20 The legislature further finds that there is no existing
21 consistent and reliable funding mechanism in place to support



1 the efforts of an independent agency to enforce laws related to
 2 agricultural crimes, such as the Hawaii agricultural crimes
 3 council. The legislature further finds that secure funding for
 4 the Hawaii agricultural crimes council is necessary to ensure
 5 its continued operation and functions, including but not limited
 6 to the purchase of necessary equipment and appropriations for
 7 position salaries.

8 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

- 9 (1) Establish the Hawaii agricultural crimes council;
- 10 (2) Require the department of agriculture to collaborate
 11 with and support the council; and
- 12 (3) Provide dedicated funding through the agricultural
 13 enforcement special fund established in Act ,
 14 Regular Session of 2025, for the council's
 15 establishment and continued operations.

16 SECTION 2. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by
 17 adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read
 18 as follows:

19 **"CHAPTER**

20 **HAWAII AGRICULTURAL CRIMES COUNCIL**

21 § -1 **Definitions.** In this chapter:



1 "Council" means the Hawaii agricultural crimes council.

2 "Department" means the department of agriculture.

3 § -2 **Hawaii agricultural crimes council; establishment;**
4 **composition; executive director.** (a) There is established the
5 Hawaii agricultural crimes council for the special purpose of
6 developing agricultural crime prevention, problem solving, and
7 crime control recommendations and implementing related programs
8 to encourage timely reporting of agricultural crimes and to
9 evaluate the results of these activities.

10 (b) The council shall be placed within the department for
11 administrative purposes only and shall comprise:

12 (1) The chairperson of the board of agriculture or the
13 chairperson's designee;

14 (2) The attorney general or the attorney general's
15 designee;

16 (3) The prosecuting attorney of each county or each
17 prosecuting attorney's designee;

18 (4) The director of law enforcement or the director's
19 designee;

20 (5) The chief of police of each county or each chief's
21 designee;



1 (6) individuals with experience as an agricultural
2 producer in the State, to be appointed by the governor
3 without regard to section 26-34;

4 (7) individuals who represent environmental
5 organizations, to be appointed by the governor without
6 regard to section 26-34; and

7 (8) individuals who serve as community
8 representatives, to be appointed by the governor
9 without regard to section 26-34.

10 (c) Members appointed by the governor under subsection
11 (b) (6), (7), and (8) shall serve for four-year terms. The
12 council shall select a chairperson from among its members. The
13 members shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed
14 for expenses, including travel expenses, necessary for the
15 performance of their duties.

16 (d) The council shall appoint, exempt from chapters 76 and
17 84, an executive director, who shall serve at the pleasure of
18 the council. The executive director shall oversee the
19 operations, strategic planning, and coordination with
20 stakeholders in the State's agricultural community.



1 § -3 **Hawaii agricultural crimes council; duties.** (a)

2 The Hawaii agricultural crimes council shall provide policy
3 level direction, coordination, and planning among appropriate
4 state and county departments to provide for the protection and
5 safety of the State's agricultural industry by creating
6 statewide standards and methods of detecting and tracking
7 agricultural crimes.

8 (b) The council shall develop an agricultural crime
9 prevention program that includes a system for reporting
10 agricultural crimes that enables the swift recovery of stolen
11 goods and the apprehension of criminal suspects for prosecution.
12 The council may develop computer software and use communication
13 technology to implement the reporting system; provided that the
14 council shall not be limited to the use of these means to
15 achieve its stated goals.

16 (c) The council shall develop a uniform procedure for all
17 counties to collect, and each county shall collect, data on
18 agricultural crimes. The council shall also establish a central
19 database for the collection and maintenance of data on
20 agricultural crimes. The counties shall adopt ordinances for
21 the implementation and administration of this section.



1 (d) The council shall examine existing state laws
2 concerning agricultural crimes and consider proposed legislation
3 to strengthen laws and penalties.

4 (e) The council shall create a public awareness campaign
5 for agricultural producers to promote education concerning:

6 (1) How to report agricultural crimes and the importance
7 of reporting all crimes;

8 (2) Laws specific to agricultural crimes;

9 (3) Good business practices; and

10 (4) Crime prevention.

11 (f) The council shall make recommendations and provide
12 training to county law enforcement agencies to promote awareness
13 of specific agricultural crime laws, including:

14 (1) How to understand agricultural crime victims;

15 (2) Appointing designated points of contacts within county
16 law enforcement agencies to handle reports of
17 agricultural crimes; and

18 (3) The establishment of a task force to educate producers
19 and consumers about agricultural crimes, crime
20 prevention for agricultural producers, and how to



1 conduct follow up investigations on reports of
2 agricultural crime.

3 (g) The council may consult with experts from the United
4 States military, United States Department of Justice, state
5 department of defense, other law enforcement agencies, and
6 various other state and private organizations as deemed
7 necessary to maximize the effectiveness of the council.

8 (h) The council shall ensure necessary funding for
9 agricultural crime suppression programs.

10 (i) The council may solicit media and community support to
11 promote its programs.

12 (j) The council shall meet not less than times
13 annually to discuss and assess progress and recommended changes
14 to its programs based on the results of its assessments and
15 other relevant data. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary:

16 (1) A simple majority of the members of the council shall
17 constitute a quorum to do business; and

18 (2) Any action taken by the council shall be by a simple
19 majority of the members.

20 (k) The council may adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91 to
21 effectuate this chapter.



1 (1) The council shall submit annual reports to the
2 legislature, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
3 each regular session, detailing:

4 (1) The progress of its duties as established in this
5 chapter;

6 (2) Recommended initiatives and strategies, as well as a
7 plan for implementation; and

8 (3) Any recommendations or proposed legislation.

9 § -4 **Agricultural crimes control; investigators; powers;**
10 **duties.** (a) The council shall appoint and commission one or
11 more investigators as required to investigate agricultural
12 crimes. Persons appointed and commissioned under this section
13 may exercise all the powers and authority of a law enforcement
14 officer; provided that the persons so appointed and commissioned
15 shall not carry any firearms. In addition to enforcing title 11
16 and rules adopted thereunder, the investigators may enforce all
17 other state laws and rules, and county ordinances within all
18 lands of the State; provided that these powers shall remain in
19 force and effect only while in the actual performance of their
20 duties, which shall include off-duty employment when the
21 employment is for other state departments or agencies. An



1 investigator appointed under this section shall focus their
2 efforts on agricultural crimes and work with the counties as
3 partners to address and prevent agricultural crime on a state
4 and local basis.

5 (b) An investigator, upon arresting any person for
6 violation of title 11, any rule adopted thereunder, or any other
7 state law or rule, may immediately take the person arrested to a
8 police station or before a district judge, or take the name,
9 address, and the number of the fishing, hunting, or other
10 licenses or permits, if any, of the person, and note the
11 violation of the law or rule by the person, and issue the person
12 a summons or citation, printed in the form described in section
13 142-30, warning the person to appear and to answer the charge
14 against the person at a certain place and time within thirty
15 days after the arrest.

16 (c) Investigators appointed under subsection (a), shall:

- 17 (1) Enforce title 11, and rules adopted thereunder;
- 18 (2) Investigate complaints, gather evidence, conduct
19 investigations, and conduct field observations and
20 inspections as required or assigned;



1 (3) Cooperate with enforcement authorities of the State,
2 counties, and federal government in development of
3 programs and mutual aid agreements for agricultural
4 activities within the State;

5 (4) Check and verify all leases, permits, and licenses
6 issued by the department of agriculture; and

7 (5) Carry out other duties and responsibilities as the
8 agricultural crimes council from time to time may
9 direct.

10 (d) Every state and county officer charged with the
11 enforcement of laws and ordinances shall assist in the
12 enforcement of title 11 and rules adopted thereunder.

13 § -5 **Moneys, revenues, and fines; disposition.** All
14 moneys, revenues, and fines received and processed by the Hawaii
15 agricultural crimes council shall be deposited into the
16 agricultural enforcement special fund established under
17 Act , Regular Session of Hawaii 2025. Moneys in the
18 agricultural enforcement special fund shall be expended to cover
19 the costs of the council, including the costs of salaries,
20 fringe benefits, and operating expenses."



1 SECTION 3. Section 76-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

3 "(b) The civil service to which this chapter applies shall
4 comprise all positions in the State now existing or hereafter
5 established and embrace all personal services performed for the
6 State, except the following:

- 7 (1) Commissioned and enlisted personnel of the Hawaii
8 National Guard and positions in the Hawaii National
9 Guard that are required by state or federal laws or
10 regulations or orders of the National Guard to be
11 filled from those commissioned or enlisted personnel;
- 12 (2) Positions filled by persons employed by contract where
13 the director of human resources development has
14 certified that the service is special or unique or is
15 essential to the public interest and that, because of
16 circumstances surrounding its fulfillment, personnel
17 to perform the service cannot be obtained through
18 normal civil service recruitment procedures. Any
19 contract may be for any period not exceeding one year;
- 20 (3) Positions that must be filled without delay to comply
21 with a court order or decree if the director



- 1 determines that recruitment through normal recruitment
2 civil service procedures would result in delay or
3 noncompliance, such as the Felix-Cayetano consent
4 decree;
- 5 (4) Positions filled by the legislature or by either house
6 or any committee thereof;
- 7 (5) Employees in the office of the governor and office of
8 the lieutenant governor, and household employees at
9 Washington Place;
- 10 (6) Positions filled by popular vote;
- 11 (7) Department heads, officers, and members of any board,
12 commission, or other state agency whose appointments
13 are made by the governor or are required by law to be
14 confirmed by the senate;
- 15 (8) Judges, referees, receivers, masters, jurors, notaries
16 public, land court examiners, court commissioners, and
17 attorneys appointed by a state court for a special
18 temporary service;
- 19 (9) One bailiff for the chief justice of the supreme court
20 who shall have the powers and duties of a court
21 officer and bailiff under section 606-14; one



1 secretary or clerk for each justice of the supreme
2 court, each judge of the intermediate appellate court,
3 and each judge of the circuit court; one secretary for
4 the judicial council; one deputy administrative
5 director of the courts; three law clerks for the chief
6 justice of the supreme court, two law clerks for each
7 associate justice of the supreme court and each judge
8 of the intermediate appellate court, one law clerk for
9 each judge of the circuit court, two additional law
10 clerks for the civil administrative judge of the
11 circuit court of the first circuit, two additional law
12 clerks for the criminal administrative judge of the
13 circuit court of the first circuit, one additional law
14 clerk for the senior judge of the family court of the
15 first circuit, two additional law clerks for the civil
16 motions judge of the circuit court of the first
17 circuit, two additional law clerks for the criminal
18 motions judge of the circuit court of the first
19 circuit, and two law clerks for the administrative
20 judge of the district court of the first circuit; and
21 one private secretary for the administrative director



- 1 of the courts, the deputy administrative director of
2 the courts, each department head, each deputy or first
3 assistant, and each additional deputy, or assistant
4 deputy, or assistant defined in paragraph (16);
- 5 (10) First deputy and deputy attorneys general, the
6 administrative services manager of the department of
7 the attorney general, one secretary for the
8 administrative services manager, an administrator and
9 any support staff for the criminal and juvenile
10 justice resources coordination functions, and law
11 clerks;
- 12 (11) (A) Teachers, principals, vice-principals, complex
13 area superintendents, deputy and assistant
14 superintendents, other certificated personnel,
15 and no more than twenty noncertificated
16 administrative, professional, and technical
17 personnel not engaged in instructional work;
- 18 (B) Effective July 1, 2003, teaching assistants,
19 educational assistants, bilingual or bicultural
20 school-home assistants, school psychologists,
21 psychological examiners, speech pathologists,



1 athletic health care trainers, alternative school
2 work study assistants, alternative school
3 educational or supportive services specialists,
4 alternative school project coordinators, and
5 communications aides in the department of
6 education;

7 (C) The special assistant to the state librarian and
8 one secretary for the special assistant to the
9 state librarian; and

10 (D) Members of the faculty of the University of
11 Hawaii, including research workers, extension
12 agents, personnel engaged in instructional work,
13 and administrative, professional, and technical
14 personnel of the university;

15 (12) Employees engaged in special, research, or
16 demonstration projects approved by the governor;

17 (13) (A) Positions filled by inmates, patients of state
18 institutions, and persons with severe physical or
19 mental disabilities participating in the work
20 experience training programs;



1 (B) Positions filled with students in accordance with
2 guidelines for established state employment
3 programs; and

4 (C) Positions that provide work experience training
5 or temporary public service employment that are
6 filled by persons entering the workforce or
7 persons transitioning into other careers under
8 programs such as the federal Workforce Investment
9 Act of 1998, as amended, or the Senior Community
10 Service Employment Program of the Employment and
11 Training Administration of the United States
12 Department of Labor, or under other similar state
13 programs;

14 (14) A custodian or guide at Iolani Palace, the Royal
15 Mausoleum, and Hulihee Palace;

16 (15) Positions filled by persons employed on a fee,
17 contract, or piecework basis, who may lawfully perform
18 their duties concurrently with their private business
19 or profession or other private employment and whose
20 duties require only a portion of their time, if it is



1 impracticable to ascertain or anticipate the portion
2 of time to be devoted to the service of the State;
3 (16) Positions of first deputies or first assistants of
4 each department head appointed under or in the manner
5 provided in section 6, article V, of the Hawaii State
6 Constitution; three additional deputies or assistants
7 either in charge of the highways, harbors, and
8 airports divisions or other functions within the
9 department of transportation as may be assigned by the
10 director of transportation, with the approval of the
11 governor; one additional deputy in the department of
12 human services either in charge of welfare or other
13 functions within the department as may be assigned by
14 the director of human services; four additional
15 deputies in the department of health, each in charge
16 of one of the following: behavioral health,
17 environmental health, hospitals, and health resources
18 administration, including other functions within the
19 department as may be assigned by the director of
20 health, with the approval of the governor; two
21 additional deputies in charge of the law enforcement



1 programs, administration, or other functions within
2 the department of law enforcement as may be assigned
3 by the director of law enforcement, with the approval
4 of the governor; three additional deputies each in
5 charge of the correctional institutions,
6 rehabilitation services and programs, and
7 administration or other functions within the
8 department of corrections and rehabilitation as may be
9 assigned by the director of corrections and
10 rehabilitation, with the approval of the governor; two
11 administrative assistants to the state librarian; and
12 an administrative assistant to the superintendent of
13 education;

14 (17) Positions specifically exempted from this part by any
15 other law; provided that:

16 (A) Any exemption created after July 1, 2014, shall
17 expire three years after its enactment unless
18 affirmatively extended by an act of the
19 legislature; and



1 (B) All of the positions defined by paragraph (9)
2 shall be included in the position classification
3 plan;

4 (18) Positions in the state foster grandparent program and
5 positions for temporary employment of senior citizens
6 in occupations in which there is a severe personnel
7 shortage or in special projects;

8 (19) Household employees at the official residence of the
9 president of the University of Hawaii;

10 (20) Employees in the department of education engaged in
11 the supervision of students during meal periods in the
12 distribution, collection, and counting of meal
13 tickets, and in the cleaning of classrooms after
14 school hours on a less than half-time basis;

15 (21) Employees hired under the tenant hire program of the
16 Hawaii public housing authority; provided that no more
17 than twenty-six per cent of the authority's workforce
18 in any housing project maintained or operated by the
19 authority shall be hired under the tenant hire
20 program;



- 1 (22) Positions of the federally funded expanded food and
2 nutrition program of the University of Hawaii that
3 require the hiring of nutrition program assistants who
4 live in the areas they serve;
- 5 (23) Positions filled by persons with severe disabilities
6 who are certified by the state vocational
7 rehabilitation office that they are able to perform
8 safely the duties of the positions;
- 9 (24) The sheriff;
- 10 (25) A gender and other fairness coordinator hired by the
11 judiciary;
- 12 (26) Positions in the Hawaii National Guard youth and adult
13 education programs;
- 14 (27) In the Hawaii state energy office in the department of
15 business, economic development, and tourism, all
16 energy program managers, energy program specialists,
17 energy program assistants, and energy analysts;
- 18 (28) Administrative appeals hearing officers in the
19 department of human services;
- 20 (29) In the Med-QUEST division of the department of human
21 services, the division administrator, finance officer,



1 health care services branch administrator, medical
2 director, and clinical standards administrator;

3 (30) In the director's office of the department of human
4 services, the enterprise officer, information security
5 and privacy compliance officer, security and privacy
6 compliance engineer, security and privacy compliance
7 analyst, information technology implementation
8 manager, assistant information technology
9 implementation manager, resource manager, community or
10 project development director, policy director, special
11 assistant to the director, and limited English
12 proficiency project manager or coordinator;

13 (31) The Alzheimer's disease and related dementia services
14 coordinator in the executive office on aging;

15 (32) In the Hawaii emergency management agency, the
16 executive officer, public information officer, civil
17 defense administrative officer, branch chiefs, and
18 emergency operations center state warning point
19 personnel; provided that for state warning point
20 personnel, the director shall determine that



- 1 recruitment through normal civil service recruitment
2 procedures would result in delay or noncompliance;
- 3 (33) The executive director and seven full-time
4 administrative positions of the school facilities
5 authority;
- 6 (34) Positions in the Mauna Kea stewardship and oversight
7 authority;
- 8 (35) In the office of homeland security of the department
9 of law enforcement, the statewide interoperable
10 communications coordinator;
- 11 (36) In the social services division of the department of
12 human services, the business technology analyst;
- 13 (37) The executive director and staff of the 911 board;
- 14 [+](38)[+]Senior software developers in the department of
15 taxation;
- 16 [+](39)[+]In the department of law enforcement, five Commission
17 on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc.,
18 coordinator positions;
- 19 [+](40)[+]The state fire marshal; ~~and~~
- 20 +](41)[+]The administrator for the law enforcement standards
21 board~~[-]~~; and



1 (42) The executive director of the Hawaii agricultural
2 crimes council.

3 The director shall determine the applicability of this
4 section to specific positions.

5 Nothing in this section shall be deemed to affect the civil
6 service status of any incumbent as it existed on July 1, 1955."

7 SECTION 4. Section 141-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
8 amended to read as follows:

9 "**§141-1 Duties in general.** The department of agriculture
10 shall:

11 (1) Gather, compile, and tabulate, from time to time,
12 information and statistics concerning:

13 (A) Entomology and plant pathology: Insects, scales,
14 blights, and diseases injurious or liable to
15 become injurious to trees, plants, or other
16 vegetation, and the ways and means of
17 exterminating pests and diseases already in the
18 State and preventing the introduction of pests
19 and diseases not yet in the State; and

20 (B) General agriculture: Fruits, fibres, and useful
21 or ornamental plants and their introduction,



1 development, care, and manufacture or
2 exportation, with a view to introducing,
3 establishing, and fostering new and valuable
4 plants and industries;

5 (2) Encourage and cooperate with the agricultural
6 extension service and agricultural experiment station
7 of the University of Hawaii and all private persons
8 and organizations doing work of an experimental or
9 educational character coming within the scope of the
10 subject matter of chapters 141, 142, and 144 to 150A,
11 and avoid, as far as practicable, duplicating the work
12 of those persons and organizations;

13 (3) Enter into contracts, cooperative agreements, or other
14 transactions with any person, agency, or organization,
15 public or private, as may be necessary in the conduct
16 of the department's business and on any terms the
17 department may deem appropriate; provided that the
18 department shall not obligate any funds of the State,
19 except the funds that have been appropriated to the
20 department. Pursuant to cooperative agreement with
21 any authorized federal agency, employees of the



1 cooperative agency may be designated to carry out, on
2 behalf of the State the same as department personnel,
3 specific duties and responsibilities under chapters
4 141, 142, and 150A, and rules adopted pursuant to
5 those chapters, for the effective prosecution of pest
6 control and animal disease control and the regulation
7 of import into the State and intrastate movement of
8 regulated articles;

9 (4) Secure copies of the laws of other states,
10 territories, and countries, and other publications
11 germane to the subject matters of chapters 141, 142,
12 and 144 to 150A, and make laws and publications
13 available for public information and consultation;

14 (5) Provide buildings, grounds, apparatus, and
15 appurtenances necessary for the examination,
16 quarantine, inspection, and fumigation provided for by
17 chapters 141, 142, and 144 to 150A; for the obtaining,
18 propagation, study, and distribution of beneficial
19 insects, growths, and antidotes for the eradication of
20 insects, blights, scales, or diseases injurious to
21 vegetation of value and for the destruction of



- 1 injurious vegetation; and for carrying out any other
2 purposes of chapters 141, 142, and 144 to 150A;
- 3 (6) Formulate and recommend to the governor and
4 legislature additional legislation necessary or
5 desirable for carrying out the purposes of chapters
6 141, 142, and 144 to 150A;
- 7 (7) Publish at the end of each year a report of the
8 expenditures and proceedings of the department and of
9 the results achieved by the department, together with
10 other matters germane to chapters 141, 142, and 144 to
11 150A and that the department may deem proper;
- 12 (8) Administer a program of agricultural planning and
13 development, including the formulation and
14 implementation of general and special plans, including
15 but not limited to the functional plan for
16 agriculture; administer the planning, development, and
17 management of the agricultural park program; plan,
18 construct, operate, and maintain the state irrigation
19 water systems; plan, design, construct, operate,
20 manage, maintain, repair, demolish, and remove
21 infrastructure or improvements on any lands under the



1 jurisdiction of the department; review, interpret, and
2 make recommendations with respect to public policies
3 and actions relating to agricultural land and water
4 use; assist in research, evaluation, development,
5 enhancement, and expansion of local agricultural
6 industries; and serve as liaison with other public
7 agencies and private organizations for the above
8 purposes. In the foregoing, the department shall act
9 to conserve and protect agricultural lands and
10 irrigation water systems, promote diversified
11 agriculture, increase agricultural self-sufficiency,
12 and ensure the availability of agriculturally suitable
13 lands; [~~and~~]

14 (9) Manage, administer, and exercise control over any
15 public lands, as defined under section 171-2, that are
16 designated important agricultural lands pursuant to
17 section 205-44.5, including but not limited to
18 establishing priorities for the leasing of these
19 public lands within the department's jurisdiction[~~+~~];

20 (10) Collaborate with the Hawaii agricultural crimes
21 council established pursuant to section -2 to



1 enhance the investigation, prevention, and prosecution
2 of agricultural-related crimes by:

3 (A) Sharing relevant information and data related to
4 agricultural crimes, such as theft, fraud, animal
5 cruelty, environmental violations, and other
6 offenses that impact agriculture in the State;

7 (B) Providing technical assistance and expertise in
8 identifying and responding to emerging threats
9 and criminal activities that affect the
10 agricultural industry, and fostering
11 intergovernmental relationships between
12 departments and agencies that are tasked with
13 regulating and enforcing agricultural laws in the
14 State;

15 (C) Assisting in the development of policies,
16 strategies, and educational programs that raise
17 awareness of agricultural crimes and prevent
18 illegal activities in the agricultural industry;

19 (D) Designating a liaison within the department to
20 serve as the primary point of contact for the
21 Hawaii agricultural crimes council and coordinate



- 1 joint efforts between the department and the
2 council;
- 3 (E) Supporting joint task forces or initiatives that
4 focus on high priority agricultural crime issues
5 and cases, as directed by the Hawaii agricultural
6 crimes council; and
- 7 (F) Providing resources and funding to facilitate the
8 operations of the Hawaii agricultural crimes
9 council that strengthen statewide agricultural
10 crimes enforcement efforts, as appropriate;
- 11 (11) Partner with other state and federal agencies, law
12 enforcement, and stakeholders to address agricultural
13 crimes and ensure that a full range of resources and
14 expertise is available to protect Hawaii's
15 agricultural industry; and
- 16 (12) Periodically report to the governor and the
17 legislature on the progress and outcomes of the
18 department's collaboration with the Hawaii
19 agricultural crimes council, including any proposed
20 legislation or policy recommendations."



1 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
 2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
 3 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and
 4 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
 5 year 2026-2027 for the establishment and operation of the Hawaii
 6 agricultural crimes council, to be expended as follows:

7 (1) \$ to establish one full-time equivalent
 8 (1.0 FTE) executive director position;

9 (2) \$ to establish one full-time equivalent
 10 (1.0 FTE) staff assistant position;

11 (3) \$ to establish two full-time equivalent
 12 (2.0 FTE) deputy inspector positions; and

13 (4) \$ for the establishment of a preliminary
 14 operating budget for the Hawaii agricultural crimes
 15 council.

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

18 SECTION 6. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
 19 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

20 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

DOA; Hawaii Agricultural Crimes Council; Establishment;
Agricultural Enforcement Special Fund; Positions; Appropriations

Description:

Establishes the Hawaii Agricultural Crimes Council. Expands the duties of the Department of Agriculture to collaborate with and support the Council. Requires all moneys, revenues, and fines received and processed by the Council to be deposited into the Agricultural Enforcement Special Fund. Allows moneys in the Agricultural Enforcement Special Fund to be expended to cover the costs of the Council. Establishes positions. 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.

