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# 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 agricultural  
2 industry in Hawaii has been significantly affected by climate  
3 change, globalization, the influx of devastating invasive  
4 species and diseases, market conditions, a lack of agricultural  
5 workers, and various other factors. The legislature further  
6 finds that the State must modernize and adapt its policies and  
7 laws accordingly. The legislature also finds that unnecessary  
8 or obsolete sections of the Hawaii Revised Statutes are impeding  
9 the growth and success of agriculture in Hawaii and should be  
10 carefully reviewed to ensure that this important part of the  
11 islands' economy and way of life can survive and thrive into the  
12 future.

13       Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to establish and  
14 appropriate funds for a working group within the department of  
15 agriculture to review and make recommendations on amending or  
16 repealing unnecessary or obsolete laws pertaining to  
17 agriculture.



1       SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the department  
2 of agriculture a working group to review and make  
3 recommendations on amending or repealing unnecessary or obsolete  
4 laws pertaining to agriculture.

5       (b) The working group shall consist of the following  
6 members:

7       (1) The chairperson of the board of agriculture, or the  
8 chairperson's designee, who shall serve as the  
9 chairperson of the working group;

10      (2) The chairperson of the board of land and natural  
11 resources, or the chairperson's designee;

12      (3) The director of business, economic development, and  
13 tourism, or the director's designee;

14      (4) The executive director of the agribusiness development  
15 corporation, or the executive director's designee;

16      (5) A representative of the mayor of the city and county  
17 of Honolulu;

18      (6) A representative of the mayor of the county of Hawaii;

19      (7) A representative of the mayor of the county of Kauai;

20      (8) A representative of the mayor of the county of Maui;



1 (9) The executive director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau, who  
2 shall be invited by the chairperson of the working  
3 group;

4 (10) The executive director of the Hawaii Agriculture  
5 Research Center, who shall be invited by the  
6 chairperson of the working group;

7 (11) The managing director of the Hawaii Cattlemen's  
8 Council, who shall be invited by the chairperson of  
9 the working group; and

10 (12) The president of the Hawaii Farmers Union, or the  
11 president's designee, who shall be invited by the  
12 chairperson of the working group.

13 (c) The working group shall first review laws that  
14 directly impact agricultural viability and land use, including  
15 but not limited to:

16 (1) Restrictions on leases of state agricultural land that  
17 prohibit a residence on the property;

18 (2) Restrictions on leases of state agricultural land that  
19 prohibit the raising of poultry and swine on the  
20 property;

21 (3) Caps on agricultural operation loan rates;



1 (4) Regulations governing agricultural workforce

2 development and farm labor access;

3 (5) Water access and permitting; and

4 (6) Procurement policies that impact the use of locally

5 grown food in state institutions.

6 (d) The working group may identify and recommend

7 additional laws for future review in subsequent legislative

8 sessions.

9 (e) Members of the working group who are employed by the

10 State and serving in their official capacity on the working

11 group shall serve without compensation. Other members of the

12 working group who are not employed by the State shall receive

13 compensation for their travel expenses.

14 (f) No later than twenty days prior to the convening of

15 the regular session of 2026, the working group shall submit a

16 report of its findings and recommendations, including any

17 proposed legislation, to the legislature regarding its review of

18 unnecessary or obsolete laws pertaining to agriculture.

19 (g) The working group shall cease to exist on June 30,

20 2026.



1       SECTION 3. 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 for  
4 the working group established pursuant to section 2 of this Act.

5       The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
6 agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

7       SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



**Report Title:**

Department of Agriculture; Working Group; Report; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes within the Department of Agriculture a working group to review and make recommendations on amending or repealing unnecessary or obsolete laws pertaining to agriculture.

Requires a report to the Legislature. Appropriates funds.

Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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

