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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PLANT-BASED FOOD AND DRINKS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that, in 2021, the State  
2 became the first state to declare a climate emergency. In a  
3 press release on December 8, 2023, the United Nations  
4 Environment Programme reported that "[t]he animal agriculture  
5 industry is a major driver of climate change," accounting for up  
6 to twenty per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions.

7 The legislature further finds that jurisdictions that have  
8 adopted plant-based-by-default policies have reported  
9 significant reductions in their negative impacts to climate  
10 change. Accordingly, the State can more efficiently respond to  
11 climate change and the climate emergency by reducing  
12 governmental preferences for animal-based food and drinks and by  
13 establishing plant-based food and drinks as the default choices  
14 at state-operated prisons, state-licensed hospitals, and  
15 government-sponsored events.

16 The legislature believes that a plant-based-by-default  
17 policy for state-operated prisons, state-licensed hospitals, and



1 government-sponsored events provides many additional benefits to  
2 the State, including:

- 3 (1) Significant savings of taxpayer money;
- 4 (2) The promotion of traditional Hawaiian environmental,  
5 dietary, and cultural practices;
- 6 (3) The advancement of public health, including reduction  
7 in dietary risk factors for diabetes, cardiovascular  
8 disease, and cancer; and
- 9 (4) An increase in the demand for and consumption of local  
10 fruits and vegetables, which supports economic  
11 opportunities for farmers throughout the State.

12 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish a  
13 plant-based-by-default policy for state-operated prisons,  
14 state-licensed hospitals, and government-sponsored events.

15 SECTION 2. Chapter 353, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
16 amended by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately  
17 designated and to read as follows:

18 **"§353- Food and drinks for committed persons;**

19 **plant-based-by-default program.** (a) The director shall  
20 establish a plant-based-by-default program for committed  
21 persons' food and drinks.



1       (b) Under the program, the department shall offer  
2 committed persons only plant-based food products by default;  
3 provided that any committed person may opt out of the default  
4 options.

5       (c) The director shall adopt rules in accordance with  
6 chapter 91 to implement this section.

7       (d) The director shall submit annual reports on the  
8 program's results to the Hawaii climate change mitigation and  
9 adaptation commission.

10       (e) As used in this section, "plant-based food products"  
11 means food and drinks that do not contain meat, poultry, fish,  
12 dairy, eggs, or other animal products or byproducts."

13       SECTION 3. Section 26-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
14 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

15       "(b) The department shall:

16           (1) Preaudit and conduct after-the-fact audits of the  
17 financial accounts of all state departments to  
18 determine the legality of expenditures and the  
19 accuracy of accounts;





1 and shall be eligible to receive the benefits of any  
2 state employee benefit program generally applicable to  
3 officers and employees of the State;

4 (10) Provide centralized computer information management  
5 and processing services through the chief information  
6 officer;

7 (11) Establish a program to provide a means for public  
8 access to public information and develop an  
9 information network for state government;

10 (12) Assume administrative responsibility for the office of  
11 information practices; [and]

12 (13) Approve state fleet acquisitions; provided that:  
13 (A) Beginning January 1, 2022, all new light-duty  
14 motor vehicles that are passenger cars purchased  
15 for the State's fleet shall be zero-emission  
16 vehicles;

17 (B) Beginning as soon as practicable but no later  
18 than January 1, 2030, all new light-duty motor  
19 vehicles that are multipurpose passenger vehicles  
20 and trucks for the State's fleet shall be  
21 zero-emission vehicles; and



(C) The comptroller may authorize an exemption for new fleet vehicle purchases if zero-emission vehicles are demonstrated to be cost-prohibitive on a lifecycle basis or unsuitable for the vehicles' planned purpose, or if funds are unavailable[.]; and

(14) Establish a plant-based-by-default program for government-sponsored events. Under the program, attendees at government-sponsored events shall be offered only plant-based food products by default; provided that any attendee may opt out of the default options. The comptroller shall submit annual reports on the program's results to the Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation commission. The department shall adopt rules in accordance with chapter 91 to implement the program.

For the purposes of this subsection:

18        "Government-sponsored event" means a gathering at a  
19        facility under the management and control of any state  
20        department during which food and drinks are offered to  
21        attendees.



1        "Light-duty motor vehicle" has the same meaning as defined  
2    in title 10 Code of Federal Regulations part 490.

3        "Multipurpose passenger vehicle" has the same meaning as  
4    defined in title 49 Code of Federal Regulations section 571.3.

5        "Passenger car" has the same meaning as defined in title 49  
6    Code of Federal Regulations section 571.3.

7        "Plant-based food products" means food and drinks that do  
8    not contain meat, poultry, fish, dairy, eggs, or other animal  
9    products or byproducts.

10       "Truck" has the same meaning as defined in title 49 Code of  
11    Federal Regulations section 571.3.

12       "Zero-emission vehicle" has the same meaning as specified  
13    in title 40 Code of Federal Regulations section 88.1."

14       SECTION 4. Section 321-14.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
15    amended to read as follows:

16       **"§321-14.5 Hospitals; licensing.** (a) All hospitals shall  
17    be licensed by the department to ensure the health, safety, and  
18    welfare of the individuals placed therein.

19       (b) The director shall adopt rules in accordance with  
20    chapter 91 that shall provide for the licensing of hospitals.



7 (1) The hospital provides the department with a certified  
8 copy of the hospital's official accreditation report  
9 from The Joint Commission;

10 (2) The hospital continuously holds full accreditation by  
11 The Joint Commission; and

12 (3) The hospital holds a current and valid state license.

**13** (d) The rules shall provide that the department may

- 14 conduct inspections and investigations of exempt hospitals to
- 15 investigate complaints, follow up on adverse accreditation
- 16 findings, or conduct periodic validation surveys.

17 (e) Information contained in reports of survey and  
18 official accreditation letters made by The Joint Commission used  
19 in determining compliance with licensing requirements shall be  
20 public information.



3       (g) The rules shall provide that each hospital shall  
4       establish a plant-based-by-default program for patients' food  
5       and drinks. Under the program, each hospital shall offer  
6       patients only plant-based food products by default; provided  
7       that any patient may opt out of the default options. As used in  
8       this subsection, "plant-based food products" means food and  
9       drinks that do not contain meat, poultry, fish, dairy, eggs, or  
10       other animal products or byproducts. The director of health  
11       shall submit annual reports on the program's results to the  
12       Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation commission."

13 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
14 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

**15** SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

16

INTRODUCED BY:

*[Signature]*

BR

JAN 23 2026



# H.B. NO. 1874

**Report Title:**

DCR; DAGS; DOH; Plant-Based-By-Default Program; Reports

**Description:**

Requires the Departments of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Accounting and General Services, and Health to establish a Plant-Based-By-Default Program for food and drinks offered at state-operated prisons, state-licensed hospitals, and government-sponsored events. Requires annual reports to the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission.

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

