
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- Farming grant program. (a) There is established
5 within the department of agriculture and biosecurity the farming
6 grant program.

7 (b) Subject to available funds, the farming grant program
8 shall provide grants to small and midsized farms that practice
9 conventional, sustainable, organic, or regenerative farming
10 methods.

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

14 (1) The applicant shall be an owner of a small farm or
15 midsized farm;

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



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

2 (B) Adopt bylaws or policies that describe the manner

3 in which business is conducted, prohibit

4 nepotism, and provide for the management of

5 potential conflicts of interest;

6 (3) The applicant shall agree to comply with all

7 applicable federal and state laws prohibiting

8 discrimination against any person on the basis of

9 race, color, national origin, religion, creed, sex,

10 age, sexual orientation, disability, or any other

11 characteristic protected under applicable federal or

12 state law;

13 (4) The applicant shall agree that grant moneys shall not

14 be used for purposes of entertainment or perquisites

15 and shall be used only for the following:

16 (A) Farming infrastructure and irrigation

17 improvements;

18 (B) Upgrades to farming equipment;

19 (C) Costs relating to improving soil health and

20 nutrient management practices; or



1 (D) Costs relating to the adoption of climate-smart
2 or water conservation techniques;

3 (5) The applicant shall agree that all activities and
4 improvements undertaken with grant funds shall comply
5 with applicable federal, state, and county laws,
6 including statutes, ordinances, applicable building
7 codes, and rules;

8 (6) The applicant shall agree to make available to the
9 department of agriculture and biosecurity any records
10 relating to the grant and allow state agencies to
11 verify the applicant's compliance with the purpose of
12 this section; and

13 (7) The applicant shall comply with other requirements or
14 conditions as the department of agriculture and
15 biosecurity or board of agriculture and biosecurity
16 may prescribe.

17 (d) For the purposes of this section:

18 "Conventional farming" means growing crops from seeds that
19 have been genetically altered using any traditional breeding
20 method, excluding biotechnology, and that are not certified as
21 organic.



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

4 "Midsize farm" means a farm having an annual gross cash
5 farm income of \$350,000 to \$999,999; provided that, upon
6 approval by the board of agriculture and biosecurity, the
7 department of agriculture and biosecurity may apply a higher
8 annual gross cash farm income amount consistent with the term
9 "midsize farm" or "midsize family farm" as defined by the United
10 States Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service in
11 a farm typology publication or related update.

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

20 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so



1 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for
2 the farming grant program.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
4 agriculture and biosecurity for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

6 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

DAB; Farming; Small and Midsized Farms; Grants; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the Farming Grant Program to be administered by the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to provide grants to small and midsized farmers. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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