

JAN 21 2026

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

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RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

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

1       SECTION 1. (a) There shall be established a farmland  
2 transition commission, within the department of agriculture and  
3 biosecurity for administrative purposes, to:

4           (1) Examine existing barriers individuals ages twenty-five  
5               through forty face when trying to purchase or access  
6               farmland;

7           (2) Review existing incentives and policies to encourage  
8               the transfer of farmland to current or prospective  
9               farmers between the ages of twenty-five through forty;  
10            and

11          (3) Make recommendations on possible incentives or  
12               policies to assist these individuals in purchasing or  
13               accessing farmland.

14          (b) Members of the farmland transition commission shall  
15 include the following:



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- 1       (1) The chairperson of the board of agriculture and  
2            biosecurity, or the chairperson's designee, who shall  
3            serve as chair of the commission;
- 4       (2) The chairperson of the board of land and natural  
5            resources, or the chairperson's designee;
- 6       (3) One member of the house of representatives, to be  
7            appointed by the speaker of the house of  
8            representatives;
- 9       (4) One member of the senate, to be appointed by the  
10           president of the senate;
- 11       (5) A representative from the University of Hawaii college  
12           of tropical agriculture and human resilience, to be  
13           appointed by the chair of the commission;
- 14       (6) A representative from an organization representing  
15           farmers, to be appointed by the chair of the  
16           commission;
- 17       (7) One farmer from each county between the ages of  
18           twenty-five and forty, to be appointed by the chair of  
19           the commission; and
- 20       (8) Any other agency or individual deemed appropriate by  
21           the chair of the commission.



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1 (c) The members of the farmland transition commission  
2 shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for  
3 reasonable expenses, including travel expenses, incurred in the  
4 discharge of their duties.

5 (d) The department of agriculture and biosecurity shall  
6 provide administrative and other support to the farmland  
7 transition commission.

8 (e) The farmland transition commission shall submit an  
9 annual report of its findings and recommendations, including any  
10 proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty  
11 days prior to the convening of each regular session.

12 SECTION 2. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026, and  
13 shall be repealed on December 31, 2032.

14  
INTRODUCED BY:

Mike Gabbard



# S.B. NO. 2323

**Report Title:**

Farmland Transition Commission; Farmland Access; Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity

**Description:**

Establishes the Farmland Transition Commission to examine barriers certain farmers face when trying to purchase or access farmland and provide recommendations on possible incentives or policies to assist these individuals in purchasing or accessing farmland. Requires an annual report to the Legislature. Sunsets 12/31/2032.

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

