
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 many of Hawaii's
2 farmers and ranchers are finding difficulty in securing the
3 financial support necessary to build a thriving, vibrant
4 business. Various sources of funding, including grants provided
5 by the United States Department of Agriculture and the State,
6 the counties, and private entities, are available for farmers
7 and ranchers. Access to grants from the United States
8 Department of Agriculture and other sources can increase
9 production capacity, provide new business opportunities, and
10 increase employment opportunities within the State's
11 agricultural industry.

12 The legislature further finds that farmers and ranchers
13 applying for grants may have to complete an application process
14 that is sometimes complex. Without specific technical expertise
15 in grant writing, many farmers and ranchers may be deterred from
16 applying for those grants. Well-trained and skilled grant



1 specialists would be able to assist farmers and ranchers in
2 obtaining and fulfilling the requirements of grants.

3 The purpose of this Act is to establish a grant specialist
4 position within the department of agriculture and biosecurity to
5 assist farmers and ranchers in applying for, obtaining, and
6 fulfilling the requirements of grants offered by the United
7 States Department of Agriculture, State, counties, or private
8 entities.

9 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
11 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for
12 the establishment of one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) grant
13 specialist position within the department of agriculture and
14 biosecurity to assist farmers and ranchers in applying for,
15 obtaining, and fulfilling the requirements of grants offered by
16 the United States Department of Agriculture, the State, the
17 counties, or private entities; provided that the grant
18 specialist position shall prioritize assisting farmers and
19 ranchers who produce local food that is at least partly consumed
20 within the State.

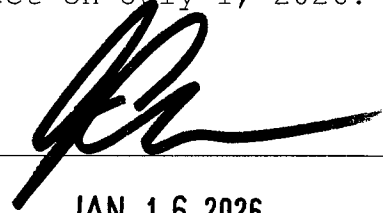


1 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
2 agriculture and biosecurity for the purposes of this Act.

3 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

4

INTRODUCED BY: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R' followed by a flourish, written over a horizontal line.

JAN 16 2026



H.B. NO. 1602

Report Title:

Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity; Grant Specialist;
Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to establish one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) grant specialist position within the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

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

