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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL TOURISM.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that, throughout the  
2 nation, cattle ranches, agricultural farms, and other farming  
3 operations are diversifying their businesses by expanding into  
4 agricultural tourism activities. These activities provide  
5 critical supplemental revenue streams and are increasingly  
6 becoming an essential part of the business models for many  
7 ranches and farms.

8           The legislature further finds that the State's four  
9 counties each have their own agricultural tourism activity  
10 permitting processes, standards, procedures, and definitions.  
11 This lack of consistency results in a disjointed regulatory  
12 framework that impedes the growth of the State's agricultural  
13 sector, inhibits the development of viable farming and ranching  
14 business models, and creates systemic impediments and  
15 exacerbates existing impediments in zoning and permitting.

16           The legislature acknowledges that existing law allows  
17 agricultural tourism activities to be conducted through the



1 special permitting process. However, the use of this process  
2 pushes agricultural tourism activities to the periphery of  
3 farming operations and exacerbates the State's inconsistent  
4 permitting framework, further impeding growth in the  
5 agricultural sector and limiting the revenue potential of the  
6 agricultural businesses that the State is trying to nurture.

7 Therefore, the legislature finds that there should be a  
8 uniform, statewide approach to approving agricultural tourism  
9 activities. With the enactment of targeted, meaningful  
10 legislation, agricultural tourism can become an area of growth  
11 and expansion for farmers while also creating opportunities for  
12 the types of regenerative tourism being encouraged by the Hawaii  
13 tourism authority. The creation of a uniform framework will  
14 increase investment in agricultural tourism activities, promote  
15 unique partnerships between farmers and local businesses  
16 interested in agriculture, and increase support for affiliated  
17 farming pathway programs in the State.

18 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish a task  
19 force to research and identify possible statewide, uniform  
20 standards for agricultural tourism activities.



1 SECTION 2. (a) There is established the statewide  
2 agricultural tourism standards task force to research and  
3 identify possible statewide, uniform standards for agricultural  
4 tourism activities.

5 (b) The membership of the task force shall include  
6 representatives of the following bodies, to be designated by the  
7 body's head or chairperson, as applicable:

8 (1) The department of agriculture and biosecurity, whose  
9 designees shall lead the task force;

10 (2) The department of business, economic development, and  
11 tourism;

12 (3) Each county council;

13 (4) The Hawaii Farm Bureau; and

14 (5) The Hawaii Farmer's Union United.

15 (c) The task force shall consider standards to promote  
16 agricultural tourism in the State, including but not limited to:

17 (1) The creation of agricultural tourism activity  
18 requirements that are applicable to all counties that  
19 have adopted an agricultural tourism ordinance;

20 (2) The requirement that agricultural tourism activities  
21 be registered with the county planning department;



1 (3) The requirement that agricultural tourism activities  
2 coexist with an agricultural activity on a farming  
3 operation and be accessory and secondary to the  
4 principal farming operation; and

5 (4) A process for the termination of the authorization for  
6 agricultural tourism activities upon a determination  
7 that productive agricultural activities have ceased.

8 (d) The members of the task force shall serve without  
9 compensation but may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses,  
10 including travel expenses, necessary for their duties.

11 (e) The task force shall submit a report of its findings  
12 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
13 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
14 the regular session of 2027.

15 (f) The task force shall dissolve on June 30, 2027.

16 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon July 1, 3000.



**Report Title:**

Statewide Agricultural Tourism Standards Task Force; Report

**Description:**

Establishes the Statewide Agricultural Tourism Standards Task Force. Requires a report to the Legislature. Effective 7/1/3000. (SD1)

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

