

JAN 21 2026

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL GRANTS.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 141, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"§141- Conventional farming grant program. (a) There is established within the department of agriculture and biosecurity the conventional farming grant program.

(b) Subject to available funds, the conventional farming grant program shall provide grants to small and midsized farms that predominately practice conventional farming.

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

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

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

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



(B) Adopt bylaws or policies that describe the manner in which business is conducted, prohibit nepotism, and provide for the management of potential conflicts of interest;

(3) The applicant shall comply with all applicable federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, creed, sex, age, sexual orientation, disability, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law;

(4) Grant moneys shall not be used for purposes of entertainment or perquisites;

(5) All activities and improvements undertaken with grant funds shall comply with applicable federal, state, and county laws, including statutes, ordinances, applicable building codes, and rules;

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



1 (7) The applicant shall comply with other requirements or
2 conditions as the department of agriculture and
3 biosecurity or board of agriculture and biosecurity
4 may prescribe.

5 (d) For the purposes of this section:

6 "Conventional farming" means growing crops from seeds that
7 have been genetically altered using any traditional breeding
8 method, excluding biotechnology, and that are not certified as
9 organic.

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

13 "Midsize farm" means a farm having an annual gross cash
14 farm income of \$350,000 to \$999,999; provided that, upon
15 approval by the board of agriculture and biosecurity, the
16 department of agriculture and biosecurity may apply a higher
17 annual gross cash farm income amount consistent with the term
18 "midsize farm" or "midsize family farm" as defined by the United
19 States Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service in
20 a farm typology publication or related update.



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

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 conventional farming grant program.

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

15 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

16 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

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INTRODUCED BY:

Lyn DeLoite



S.B. NO. 2126

Report Title:

DAB; Conventional Farming; Grants; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the Conventional Farming Grant Program to be administered by the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to provide grants to small and midsize farmers who practice conventional farming. Appropriates funds.

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

