

JAN 21 2026

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 over the past four
2 decades, the value of all agricultural products in the State has
3 been in decline. Investing in the State's agricultural data and
4 statistics gathering system is a necessary and critical
5 component to the revitalization and future of Hawaii's
6 agricultural sector.

7 The legislature further finds that utilizing modern data
8 and statistics gathering methodologies can promote access to
9 high-quality data, which can then be used to help empower
10 policymakers and agricultural stakeholders in making informed
11 decisions and supporting sustainable farming practices.

12 Improving the technical, data-gathering component of the
13 department of agriculture and biosecurity is necessary to
14 provide the State and its farmers with the ability to track and
15 anticipate patterns of agricultural activity, guide land use
16 practices, support commodity investment and agricultural



1 resource development, and inform future infrastructure
2 investments.

3 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate
4 funds to the department of agriculture and biosecurity to
5 conduct a study of agricultural markets for Hawaii farmers and
6 to establish positions to conduct and collect relevant
7 agricultural data for public consumption.

8 SECTION 2. (a) The department of agriculture and
9 biosecurity shall conduct a study of agricultural markets for
10 Hawaii farmers, which shall include strategies and actions that
11 support agriculture and a robust agricultural sector in the
12 State.

13 (b) The department of agriculture and biosecurity shall
14 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including
15 any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than
16 twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of
17 2027.

18 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
20 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for a
21 one-year study of agricultural markets for Hawaii farmers.



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

3 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
5 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for
6 the establishment of:

7 (1) One full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) data scientist,
8 statistician, or market analyst position to conduct
9 data analysis; and
10 (2) One full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) field researcher
11 position to collect relevant agricultural data for the
12 agricultural statistics service to build an
13 agricultural data dashboard for public consumption.

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

16 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

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INTRODUCED BY: Brad M. Retter G



S.B. NO. 2154

Report Title:

DAB; Agricultural Markets Study; Report; Agricultural Statistics Service; Positions; Appropriations

Description:

Requires the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to conduct a study of agricultural markets for Hawaii farmers. Requires a report to the Legislature. Appropriates funds for the one-year study of agricultural markets for Hawaii farmers. Appropriates funds to establish two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) positions to collect agricultural data and conduct data analysis for public consumption.

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