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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the department of  
2 agriculture and biosecurity's existing agricultural statistics  
3 program plays a crucial role in providing producers and  
4 policymakers with essential data to guide short-term decision  
5 making and long-term strategic planning. In fact, the  
6 department of agriculture and biosecurity has a statutory duty  
7 and also a contractual obligation with the United States  
8 Department of Agriculture to ensure robust data collection and  
9 reporting across the State. However, the department has  
10 experienced several shortcomings in the agricultural statistics  
11 program, including limited access to accurate and timely  
12 agricultural data and outdated collection, analysis, and  
13 dissemination of agricultural statistics, which results in  
14 limited insights to data that is critical to the movement of  
15 agricultural goods into and within the State.

16           The legislature further finds that in 2024, the department  
17 of agriculture and biosecurity launched a statewide process to



1 address key economic challenges facing the agricultural sector  
2 and developed short-term actions and a long-term strategy aimed  
3 at addressing the shortcomings of its statistics program and  
4 other goals, such as boosting local product availability and  
5 expanding market capacity. The objectives of the long-term  
6 strategy are to:

- 7 (1) Collect, analyze, and report data and trends on the  
8 inter-island production, distribution, and sale of  
9 select agricultural products;
- 10 (2) Provide producers with the information needed to make  
11 informed decisions about planting, scaling operations,  
12 and exploring new growth or market opportunities;
- 13 (3) Provide other decisionmakers with key analyses of  
14 production and production opportunities, trends, and  
15 growth to better allocate public resources to support  
16 agriculture and the public; and
- 17 (4) Support the strategic growth and development of  
18 Hawaii's agricultural sector by enhancing the  
19 statistics program's data collection, analysis, and  
20 reporting capabilities.



1           Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to revitalize and  
2 enhance the department of agriculture and biosecurity's  
3 agricultural statistics program by statutorily establishing an  
4 agricultural statistics program and appropriating funds for the  
5 program.

6           SECTION 2. Chapter 148, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
7 amended by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and  
8 to read as follows:

9                           **"PART           .    AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS**

10           **§148-        Agricultural statistics program.** The department  
11 of agriculture and biosecurity shall:

- 12           (1) Collect data, provide analysis, and report on the
- 13                       inter-island transportation of fresh fruit and
- 14                       vegetable products;
- 15           (2) Develop and maintain electronic systems for capturing
- 16                       and analyzing data on the inter-island transportation
- 17                       of fresh fruit and vegetable products; and
- 18           (3) Establish a structured rotation schedule for expanded,
- 19                       consistent, sector-specific surveys to collect
- 20                       comprehensive data on key agricultural activities,
- 21                       including:



- 1 (A) Agricultural theft;
- 2 (B) Agricultural tourism;
- 3 (C) Aquaculture;
- 4 (D) Crop and livestock losses;
- 5 (E) Farm technology;
- 6 (F) Horticulture and nursery;
- 7 (G) Livestock numbers and productivity;
- 8 (H) Producer expansion;
- 9 (I) Seed;
- 10 (J) Tropical fruits;
- 11 (K) Vegetables and melons; and
- 12 (L) Other surveys as may be determined necessary.

13 **§148- Exemption.** Data and information collected by the  
14 department of agriculture and biosecurity for the purposes of  
15 this part or collected, compiled, and stored in the agricultural  
16 statistics program, shall be confidential and shall not be  
17 subject to discovery or to disclosure under chapter 92F;  
18 provided that nothing in this section shall preclude the  
19 disclosure of the information in a statistical or aggregate form  
20 that does not allow the identification of an individual or  
21 entity. Unauthorized review, use, disclosure, or distribution



1 of data shall be strictly prohibited. The State shall not be  
2 liable for any dissemination of information collected, compiled,  
3 or stored for use in the agricultural statistics program.

4 **§148- Collaboration; partnerships.** The department of  
5 agriculture and biosecurity may:

6 (1) Collaborate with national and local entities,  
7 including the following, to enhance data collection,  
8 analyses, and reporting efforts:

9 (A) United States Department of Agriculture;

10 (B) United States National Agricultural Statistics  
11 Service;

12 (C) United States Agricultural Marketing Service;

13 (D) United States Bureau of Labor Statistics;

14 (E) University of Hawaii college of tropical  
15 agriculture and human resilience;

16 (F) University of Hawaii economic research  
17 organization; and

18 (G) Other state agencies as needed; and

19 (2) Establish partnerships with local producers,  
20 transportation companies, aggregators, and



1 distributors to facilitate the electronic capture of  
2 and access to other data sets."

3 SECTION 3. 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 following:

- 7 (1) \$ for the establishment of two full-time  
8 equivalent (2.0 FTE) agricultural economist positions;
- 9 (2) \$ for the establishment of four full-time  
10 equivalent (4.0 FTE) research statistician positions;
- 11 (3) \$ for the establishment of secured office  
12 space, equipment, the development of electronic data  
13 collection systems, and program expenses for six  
14 islands within the State; and
- 15 (4) \$ for contracted specialty surveys to be  
16 conducted by third-party entities, focusing on  
17 critical agricultural data needs.

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

20 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity; Agricultural  
Statistics Program; Appropriation

**Description:**

Codifies the Agricultural Statistics Program in statute.  
Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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