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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

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

1           SECTION 1. (a) There shall be established a farmland  
2 transition commission, within the department of agriculture and  
3 biosecurity for administrative purposes, to:

4           (1) Examine existing barriers individuals face when trying  
5           to purchase or access farmland;

6           (2) Review existing incentives and policies to encourage  
7           the transfer of farmland to current or prospective  
8           farmers;

9           (3) Make recommendations on possible incentives or  
10           policies to assist these individuals in purchasing or  
11           accessing farmland;

12           (4) Examine the viability of state-funded agricultural  
13           conservation easements and lease-to-fee conversion  
14           programs to ensure permanent affordability for small-  
15           scale food producers; and

16           (5) Evaluate the effectiveness of current agricultural  
17           park lots and non-agricultural park land lease terms



1           in providing the equity and security necessary for  
2           young farmers to secure traditional financing.

3           (b) Members of the farmland transition commission shall  
4 include the following:

5           (1) The chairperson of the board of agriculture and  
6           biosecurity, or the chairperson's designee, who shall  
7           serve as chairperson of the commission;

8           (2) The chairperson of the board of land and natural  
9           resources, or the chairperson of the board's designee;

10          (3) One member of the house of representatives, to be  
11          appointed by the speaker of the house of  
12          representatives;

13          (4) One member of the senate, to be appointed by the  
14          president of the senate;

15          (5) A representative from the university of Hawaii college  
16          of tropical agriculture and human resilience, to be  
17          appointed by the chairperson of the commission;

18          (6) A representative from an organization representing  
19          farmers, to be invited by the chairperson of the  
20          commission;



1 (7) One active farmer from each county, to be invited by  
2 the chairperson of the commission;

3 (8) Two representatives from statewide farmer  
4 organizations, to be invited by the chairperson of the  
5 commission; and

6 (9) Any other agency or individual deemed appropriate by  
7 the chairperson of the commission, to be invited by  
8 the chairperson.

9 (c) The members of the farmland transition commission  
10 shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for  
11 reasonable expenses, including travel expenses, incurred in the  
12 discharge of their duties.

13 (d) The department of agriculture and biosecurity shall  
14 provide administrative and other support to the farmland  
15 transition commission.

16 (e) The farmland transition commission shall submit an  
17 annual report of its findings and recommendations, including any  
18 proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty  
19 days prior to the convening of each regular session.

20 SECTION 2. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050, and  
21 shall be repealed on December 31, 2032.



**Report Title:**

Farmland Transition Commission; Farmland Access; Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity

**Description:**

Establishes the Farmland Transition Commission to examine barriers certain farmers face when trying to purchase or access farmland and provide recommendations on possible incentives or policies to assist these individuals in purchasing or accessing farmland. Requires an annual report to the Legislature. Sunsets 12/31/2032. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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

