
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)

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