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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO STRATEGIC FOOD RESERVES.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State currently  
2 imports roughly ninety per cent of its food, creating a  
3 significant vulnerability to supply chain disruptions caused by  
4 natural disasters, economic crises, or global conflicts. Recent  
5 studies indicate that only twelve per cent of households in the  
6 State maintain a recommended two-week emergency food supply.  
7 The legislature further finds that Hawaii county experiences a  
8 food insecurity rate of forty per cent, which is the highest  
9 rate in the State, demonstrating an urgent need for the  
10 improvement of food security measures.

11           The legislature also finds that the establishment of a  
12 strategic food reserve on each island would provide a crucial  
13 buffer during supply chain disruptions and enhance the State's  
14 overall resilience. The legislature additionally finds that  
15 integrating local food production into a strategic food reserves  
16 system would strengthen local agriculture, create jobs, improve  
17 nutrition, and reduce the environmental footprint of the State's



1 food system. The legislature further finds that establishing  
2 guaranteed purchase requirements for locally-grown crops and  
3 fruits will help create stable markets for the State's farmers,  
4 incentivize local food production, and strengthen the  
5 agricultural sector of the State's economy.

6 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

- 7 (1) Establish the Hawaii strategic food reserves program  
8 to facilitate and monitor strategic food reserves on  
9 each island of the State;
- 10 (2) Establish purchasing requirements for locally-grown  
11 crops stored at a strategic food reserve;
- 12 (3) Establish the strategic food reserves advisory  
13 committee to advise the implementation of the Hawaii  
14 strategic food reserves program;
- 15 (4) Require the strategic food reserves advisory committee  
16 to submit an annual report to the legislature;
- 17 (5) Establish the agricultural market development grant  
18 program;
- 19 (6) Establish the Hawaii strategic food reserves program  
20 special fund;



1 (7) Require the department of agriculture and biosecurity  
 2 to submit an annual report to the legislature  
 3 regarding the progress and effectiveness of the Hawaii  
 4 strategic food reserves program; and

5 (8) Establish a timeline for the department of agriculture  
 6 and biosecurity's implementation of strategic food  
 7 reserves.

8 SECTION 2. Chapter 141, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
 9 amended by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and  
 10 to read as follows:

11 "PART . HAWAII STRATEGIC FOOD RESERVES PROGRAM

12 §141-A Definitions. As used in this part:

13 "Department" means the department of agriculture and  
 14 biosecurity.

15 "Local food" means agricultural products grown, raised, or  
 16 produced within the State.

17 "Priority crops" means an agricultural product identified  
 18 by the department as suitable for strategic reserves and  
 19 cultivation in the State, including but not limited to crops  
 20 possessing cultural significance, nutritional value, and storage  
 21 capability.



1 "Rotation" means the practice of regularly rotating food  
2 stocks to maintain freshness while maintaining required  
3 inventory levels.

4 **§141-B Hawaii strategic food reserves program;**  
5 **established; functions; purchase requirements.** (a) There is  
6 established within the department a Hawaii strategic food  
7 reserves program for the establishment and maintenance of a  
8 strategic food reserve on each island of the State.

9 (b) The department shall administer the Hawaii strategic  
10 food reserves program in collaboration with:

- 11 (1) The office of planning and sustainable development;
- 12 (2) The Hawaii emergency management agency;
- 13 (3) County emergency agencies; and
- 14 (4) Other relevant state and county agencies.

15 (c) The department shall:

- 16 (1) Develop and implement procedures for the acquisition,  
17 storage, rotation, and distribution of food for  
18 strategic food reserves;
- 19 (2) Establish minimum nutritional standards for foods  
20 stored at a strategic food reserve;



- 1           (3) Establish procedures for activating and deploying  
2           strategic food reserves during an emergency, including  
3           cooperation with private food purveyors as necessary  
4           to ensure the best prices and expedited delivery of  
5           strategic food reserve items during an emergency;
- 6           (4) Enter into contracts with local agricultural  
7           producers, food processors, and distributors for the  
8           supply and rotation of strategic food reserve items;
- 9           (5) Partner with the counties, private sector entities,  
10          and nonprofit organizations to support strategic food  
11          reserve operations;
- 12          (6) Coordinate with the Hawaii emergency management agency  
13          to integrate strategic food reserves into state and  
14          county emergency response plans;
- 15          (7) Develop training programs for program staff and  
16          partner organizations involved in strategic food  
17          reserve management and emergency distribution;
- 18          (8) Establish a transparent inventory management system  
19          with regular reporting requirements;



- 1           (9) Conduct an annual assessment of the capacity,  
2                   condition, and readiness of each strategic food  
3                   reserve;
- 4           (10) Adapt strategic food reserve inventory composition  
5                   based on changing dietary needs, agricultural  
6                   production patterns, and emergency management best  
7                   practices;
- 8           (11) Establish mandatory local purchase requirements for  
9                   priority crops according to the following schedule:
  - 10           (A) For crops that are produced in a sufficient  
11                   quantity in the State, at least sixty per cent of  
12                   reserve stocks shall be sourced locally;
  - 13           (B) For crops that are of moderate but increasing  
14                   production in the State, at least forty per cent  
15                   of reserve stocks shall be sourced locally;  
16                   provided that at least sixty per cent of these  
17                   crops shall be sourced locally in           years;  
18                   and
  - 19           (C) For other crops identified as priority crops that  
20                   are of limited production in the State, at least  
21                   twenty per cent of reserve stocks shall be



1                   sourced locally; provided that forty per cent of  
2                   these crops shall be sourced locally  
3                   in           years;

4       (12)   Annually compile and publish a list of priority crops  
5                   and their respective purchase requirement percentages;

6       (13)   Enter into forward contracts with local producers that  
7                   guarantee purchase of priority crops at fair market  
8                   prices; provided that each contract shall be for a  
9                   term of not less than three years and not more than  
10                  five years;

11       (14)   Establish differential pricing structures that may  
12                  include premium prices for crops grown using  
13                  sustainable or regenerative practices; and

14       (15)   Provide technical assistance to support local  
15                  producers in meeting food safety, storage, and quality  
16                  requirements for participation in the Hawaii strategic  
17                  food reserves program.

18            **§141-C Hawaii strategic food reserves program;**  
19 **requirements.** In its management of each strategic food reserve,  
20 the department shall:



- 1           (1) Maintain a three-month supply of essential, non-  
2           perishable staple foods for at least twenty-five per  
3           cent of the resident population of each island of the  
4           State, respectively; provided that, no later than  
5           July 1, 2031, each strategic food reserve shall  
6           maintain a three-month supply for fifty per cent of  
7           the resident population;
- 8           (2) Include a diverse selection of nutritious, culturally  
9           appropriate food items possessing an extended shelf  
10          life;
- 11          (3) Include a minimum of thirty per cent locally-produced  
12          food items in its inventory;
- 13          (4) Be strategically located to ensure accessibility  
14          during emergencies, with consideration given to sea  
15          level rise, flood zones, and other potential hazards;
- 16          (5) Operate on a revolving basis, with regular rotation of  
17          inventory to maintain freshness and minimize waste;
- 18          (6) Integrate into existing food distribution networks  
19          where appropriate, including partnerships with food  
20          banks, grocery retailers, and agricultural producers;



1 (7) Prioritize storable crops that may be cultivated in  
2 the State, including but not limited to taro, sweet  
3 potato, breadfruit, banana, and papaya; and

4 (8) Support traditional Native Hawaiian food systems and  
5 indigenous crop varieties where appropriate.

6 **§141-D Strategic food reserves advisory committee;**

7 **established; duties; annual report.** (a) There is established  
8 within the department, for administrative purposes only, a  
9 strategic food reserves advisory committee. The strategic food  
10 reserves advisory committee shall be an advisory body exempt  
11 from section 26-34, to advise the department in its  
12 implementation of the Hawaii strategic food reserves program.

13 (b) The strategic food reserves advisory committee shall  
14 comprise the following members:

15 (1) The chairperson of the board of agriculture and  
16 biosecurity or their designee, who shall serve as  
17 chairperson of the advisory committee;

18 (2) The administrator of the Hawaii emergency management  
19 agency or their designee;

20 (3) One member representing the office of planning and  
21 sustainable development;



- 1       (4) One member representing each county management agency,  
2               respectively;
- 3       (5) One member representing the university of Hawaii at  
4               Manoa college of tropical agriculture and human  
5               resilience;
- 6       (6) One member representing a farm organization that  
7               represents small-scale diversified farmers, to be  
8               invited by the chairperson of the board of agriculture  
9               and biosecurity;
- 10      (7) One member representing the Native Hawaiian farming  
11              community with knowledge of traditional crop systems,  
12              to be invited by the chairperson of the board of  
13              agriculture and biosecurity;
- 14      (8) One member representing the food processing sector  
15              with expertise in the preservation methods of tropical  
16              crops, to be invited by the chairperson of the board  
17              of agriculture and biosecurity;
- 18      (9) Two members representing the local agricultural  
19              production center, to be appointed by the governor;
- 20      (10) One member representing the food distribution  
21              industry, to be appointed by the governor;



- 1 (11) One member with expertise in nutrition or public
- 2 health, to be appointed by the governor; and
- 3 (12) One member with expertise in food storage and
- 4 preservation, to be appointed by the governor.
- 5 (c) The advisory committee shall:
- 6 (1) Provide recommendations on the types and quantities of
- 7 food to be included in each strategic food reserve;
- 8 (2) Advise on storage and rotation procedures to maximize
- 9 the shelf life of food and minimize waste;
- 10 (3) Review and provide input on distribution plans for an
- 11 emergency situation;
- 12 (4) Identify opportunities to increase the percentage of
- 13 locally-produced food in each strategic food reserve;
- 14 (5) Monitor program effectiveness and recommend
- 15 improvements;
- 16 (6) Recommend adjustments to local purchase percentages
- 17 based on current agricultural production capacity;
- 18 (7) Identify any barriers to increasing local production
- 19 of priority crops and recommend solutions;



1 (8) Develop strategies to assist small- and mid-sized  
2 farms with Hawaii strategic food reserves program  
3 participation; and

4 (9) Review pricing structures to ensure fair compensation  
5 for farmers participating in the Hawaii strategic food  
6 reserves program while maintaining program  
7 sustainability.

8 (d) The strategic food reserves advisory committee shall  
9 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including  
10 any proposed legislation, to the legislature at least twenty  
11 days prior to the convening of each regular session. The report  
12 shall detail the status of each strategic food reserve,  
13 including inventory levels, rotation activities, challenges, and  
14 recommendations.

15 (e) The strategic food reserves advisory committee shall  
16 meet at least once per quarter to review the status of the  
17 Hawaii strategic food reserves program and address any emerging  
18 issues.

19 **§141-E Agricultural market development grant program;**  
20 **functions.** (a) The department shall establish and administer  
21 an agricultural market development grant program to support



1 strategic food reserves in the State. The agricultural market  
2 development grant program shall:

3 (1) Identify crops that are currently imported that could  
4 feasibly be grown in the State for inclusion on the  
5 list of priority crops;

6 (2) Collaborate with the university of Hawaii college of  
7 agriculture and human resilience to develop improved  
8 varieties of storable crops suitable for the State's  
9 growing conditions;

10 (3) Provide grants to farmers for infrastructure,  
11 equipment, and training necessary for the production  
12 of priority crops;

13 (4) Establish processing facilities for converting  
14 perishable local produce into shelf-stable forms  
15 suitable for storage at a strategic food reserve;

16 (5) Develop seed systems to ensure that any locally  
17 adapted crop variety remains available to farmers in  
18 the State;

19 (6) Establish a certification program for products meeting  
20 program standards;



1 (7) Establish an economic modeling tool to determine fair  
2 prices for forward contracts that ensure farmer  
3 profitability while maintaining program stability; and

4 (8) Coordinate with existing agriculture development  
5 programs to align incentives and resources toward  
6 increasing the production of priority crops.

7 (b) Applications for grants shall be made to the  
8 department and contain the information as shall be required by  
9 rules adopted to administer the grant program. At a minimum,  
10 the applicant shall:

11 (1) Be licensed or accredited, in accordance with federal,  
12 state, or county statutes, rules, or ordinances, to  
13 conduct the activities or provide the services for  
14 which a grant is awarded;

15 (2) Provide a detailed plan outlining the scope,  
16 objectives, and projected impact of the project or  
17 projects, including a clear breakdown of how grant  
18 funds will be expended;

19 (3) Agree to use state funds exclusively for the purposes  
20 of this program;



- 1           (4) Demonstrate the capability and capacity to properly  
2           carry out the proposed project and properly administer  
3           grant funds; provided that the department shall  
4           prescribe the applicant qualifications for each grant;
- 5           (5) Comply with all applicable federal and state laws  
6           prohibiting discrimination against any person on the  
7           basis of race, color, national origin, religion,  
8           creed, sex, age, sexual orientation, disability, or  
9           any other characteristic protected under applicable  
10          federal or state law;
- 11          (6) Agree not to use state funds for purposes of  
12          entertainment or perquisites;
- 13          (7) Comply with any additional requirements prescribed by  
14          the department;
- 15          (8) Comply with all applicable federal, state, and county  
16          statutes, rules, and ordinances;
- 17          (9) Agree to indemnify and hold harmless the State and its  
18          officers, agents, and employees from and against any  
19          and all claims arising out of or resulting from  
20          activities carried out or projects undertaken with  
21          grant funds provided hereunder and procure sufficient



1 insurance to provide this indemnification if requested  
2 to do so by the department; and

3 (10) Agree to make available to the department all records  
4 the applicant may have relating to the grant, to allow  
5 state agencies to monitor the applicant's compliance  
6 with this section.

7 **§141-F Hawaii strategic food reserves program special**  
8 **fund; permitted uses.** (a) There is established within the

9 state treasury the Hawaii strategic food reserves program  
10 special fund, into which shall be deposited the following:

- 11 (1) Appropriations made by the legislature;
- 12 (2) Grants, donations, and contributions from a public or
- 13 private entity;
- 14 (3) Revenues generated from the sale of aged inventory
- 15 through the rotation process;
- 16 (4) Federal grants for food security programs;
- 17 (5) Interest accrued on the balance of the fund; and
- 18 (6) Any other revenues designated for the special fund.

19 (b) Moneys in the fund shall be used for:

- 20 (1) Acquisition of food supplies for strategic food
- 21 reserves;



- 1           (2) Construction, leasing, or maintenance of storage
- 2                 facilities;
- 3           (3) Purchasing equipment necessary for proper food storage
- 4                 and handling;
- 5           (4) Administrative costs; provided that not more than
- 6                 fifteen per cent of funds available shall be spent on
- 7                 administrative costs;
- 8           (5) Grants or incentives to increase production of
- 9                 storable food items by local agricultural producers;
- 10          (6) Educational programs related to food security and
- 11                 emergency preparedness;
- 12          (7) Forward contracts with local producers for future
- 13                 harvests of priority crops;
- 14          (8) Development of processing infrastructure to convert
- 15                 perishable local produce into shelf-stable forms;
- 16          (9) Research and development of improved storage methods
- 17                 for tropical crops;
- 18          (10) Support of the agricultural market development grant
- 19                 program; provided that not more than twenty per cent
- 20                 of the fund shall be allocated annually for this
- 21                 purpose; and



1 (11) Other expenditures necessary to carry out the purposes  
2 of this part.

3 **§141-G Annual report.** The department shall submit an  
4 annual report of its findings and recommendations, including any  
5 proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty  
6 days prior to the convening of each regular session. The report  
7 shall include:

- 8 (1) The status of each island's strategic food reserve,  
9 including current inventory levels and storage  
10 capacity;
- 11 (2) Progress toward meeting the local food percentage  
12 goals;
- 13 (3) The financial status of the Hawaii strategic food  
14 reserves program special fund;
- 15 (4) Any deployment or use of the reserves during the  
16 preceding year;
- 17 (5) Any partnership established to support the Hawaii  
18 strategic food reserves program or agricultural market  
19 development grant program;
- 20 (6) Challenges encountered and actions taken to address  
21 them; and



1 (7) Recommendations for improvements to the program.

2 **§141-H Rules.** The department shall adopt rules pursuant  
3 to chapter 91 to carry out the purposes of this part."

4 SECTION 3. (a) Before January 1, 2027, the department of  
5 agriculture and biosecurity shall:

6 (1) Convene the strategic food reserves advisory committee  
7 described in section 141-D;

8 (2) Develop initial plans for strategic food reserve  
9 locations, food inventory compositions, and operation;

10 (3) Identify potential storage locations on each island;

11 (4) Identify any priority crops and publish an initial  
12 list of priority crops for local purchase  
13 requirements; and

14 (5) Establish baseline metrics for the current local  
15 production capacity of priority crops.

16 (b) Before July 1, 2027, the department of agriculture and  
17 biosecurity shall:

18 (1) Secure initial strategic food reserve storage  
19 facilities for each island;

20 (2) Establish contracts with suppliers;

21 (3) Begin the acquisition of initial food supplies;



- 1 (4) Implement the initial local purchase requirements for  
2 priority crops;
- 3 (5) Establish the economic modeling tool to determine fair  
4 prices for forward contracts described in section  
5 141-E(7); and
- 6 (6) Begin accepting applications for agricultural market  
7 development program grants.
- 8 (c) Before July 1, 2028, the department of agriculture and  
9 biosecurity shall:
- 10 (1) Achieve at least twenty-five per cent of the target  
11 capacity of each strategic food reserve;
- 12 (2) Integrate reverse deployment into state and county  
13 emergency management plans; and
- 14 (3) Implement the inventory management and rotation  
15 systems in their entirety.
- 16 (d) Before July 1, 2029, the department of agriculture and  
17 biosecurity shall:
- 18 (1) Achieve intermediate local purchase requirement  
19 targets;



1 (2) Complete the development of at least one processing  
2 facility capable of converting perishable local  
3 produce into shelf-stable forms; and

4 (3) Establish coordinated procurement standards across all  
5 state agencies.

6 (e) Before July 1, 2031, the department of agriculture and  
7 biosecurity shall achieve the target reserve capacity necessary  
8 to provide three months of essential staple foods for at least  
9 fifty per cent of the resident population of each island.

10 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
12 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 to be  
13 deposited into the Hawaii strategic food reserves program  
14 special fund.

15 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the Hawaii  
16 strategic food reserves program special fund the sum of  
17 \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
18 year 2026-2027 for purposes consistent with section 141-F,  
19 Hawaii Revised Statutes.

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



1           SECTION 6. In codifying the new sections added by section  
2 2 of this Act, the revisor of statutes shall substitute  
3 appropriate section numbers for the letters used in designating  
4 the new sections in this Act and referenced in sections 3 and 4  
5 of this Act.

6           SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

DAB; College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience; Strategic Food Reserves Advisory Committee; Hawaii Strategic Food Reserves Program; Agricultural Market Development Grant Program; Hawaii Strategic Food Reserves Program Special Fund; Agriculture; Local Produce; Climate Adaptation; Resilience; Supply Chains; Emergency Management; Reports; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes the Hawaii Strategic Food Reserves Program within the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity. Establishes purchasing requirements for crops stored at a strategic food reserve. Establishes the Strategic Food Reserves Advisory Committee. Establishes the Agricultural Market Development Grant Program. Establishes the Hawaii Strategic Food Reserves Program Special Fund. Requires DAB and the Strategic Food Reserves Advisory Committee to submit annual reports to the Legislature, respectively. Establishes a timeline for DAB's implementation of the Hawaii Strategic Food Reserves Program. Appropriates funds. 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.*

