

ACT 135

H.B. NO. 791

A Bill for an Act Relating to the Department of Agriculture.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. Section 26-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

“§26-16 Department of agriculture. (a) The department of agriculture shall be headed by an executive board to be known as the board of agriculture.

The board shall consist of eight members, one who shall be a resident of the county of Hawaii, one who shall be a resident of the county of Maui, one who shall be a resident of the county of Kauai, four at large, and the chairperson of the board of land and natural resources who shall serve as an ex officio voting member. The majority of the members of the board shall be from the agricultural community of the agricultural support sector. The appointment, tenure, and removal of the members and the filling of vacancies on the board shall be as provided in section 26-34. The governor shall appoint a [chairman] chairperson of the board from the members.

(b) The board may delegate to the [chairman] chairperson such duties, powers, and authority, or so much thereof, as may be lawful or proper for the performance of the functions vested in the board.

The [chairman] chairperson of the board shall serve in a full-time capacity. The [chairman] chairperson shall, in that capacity, perform such duties, and exercise such powers and authority, or so much thereof, as may be delegated to the [chairman] chairperson by the board.

(c) The department shall promote the conservation, development, and utilization of agricultural resources in the State; assist the farmers of the State and any others engaged in agriculture by research projects, dissemination of information, crop and livestock reporting service, market news service, and any other means of improving the well-being of those engaged in agriculture and increasing the productivity of the lands, and administer the programs of the State relating to animal husbandry, entomology, farm credit, development and promotion of agricultural products and markets, and the establishment and enforcement of the rules on the grading and labeling of agricultural products.

(d) The chairman or the chairman's designated representative shall hold at least one publicly announced hearing on each of the islands of Oahu, Hawaii, Maui, Kauai, and Molokai each year for the purpose of hearing complaints and suggestions, if any, from the farmers, ranchers, consumers and other interested groups and persons with respect to matters within the duties, powers, and authority of the department of agriculture.

(e)] (d) The functions and authority heretofore exercised by the board of commissioners of agriculture and forestry (except the management of state parks and the conservation, development, and utilization of forest resources, including regulatory powers over the forest reserve provided in section 183-41, and of fish and game resources transferred to the department of land and natural resources), by the farm loan board as heretofore constituted, and by the University of Hawaii with respect to the crop and livestock reporting service and market news service, are transferred to the department of agriculture established by this chapter.”

SECTION 2. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved May 22, 1991.)