

ACT 29

S.B. NO. 6-S

A Bill for an Act Making an Appropriation for Agricultural Research and Development.

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

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that agriculture is one of the State's most important industries and a vital component of the State's economic base. The legislature also finds that although sugar will continue to be Hawaii's primary export product, the sugar industry is downsizing to remain efficient, productive, and cost effective. With the downsizing of the sugar industry, agricultural research is becoming increasingly important for maintaining and improving current crops grown across the State and for developing new crops so that the State can take the best economic advantage of the thousands of acres of prime agricultural lands that are becoming available. The legislature also finds that the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association has been working with other agriculturists, landowners, and the State to place the research efforts of its experiment station under the direction of a new organization, the Hawaii Agricultural Research Corporation. The experiment station will begin a second century of conducting proven, production-oriented, results-driven scientific research for the State's agriculture industry and will be a key resource in the State's efforts to strengthen and improve the agriculture industry, revitalize the economy, and maintain and create employment opportunities, especially in rural areas.

The purpose of this Act is to provide the necessary funds to maintain current minimum levels of sugarcane research and to make available the resources of the experiment station for diversified agricultural research.

SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,000,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 1995-1996, for agricultural research and development to be performed by the experiment station of the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association; provided that no funds for sugarcane research shall be released unless matched on a dollar for dollar basis; and provided further that no funds for nonsugarcane research shall be released unless the beneficiaries of the nonsugarcane research contribute one dollar for every three dollars the State provides.

SECTION 3. The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department of agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 1995.

(Approved June 30, 1995.)