

## ACT 277

H.B. NO. 945

A Bill for an Act Relating to Agricultural Parks.

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

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the lands of Hawaii's agricultural parks should be utilized to their fullest and highest potential. Unfortunately, many lessees lack the resources or methods to display and market their crops and commodities in a setting that is conducive to public access by both residents and visitors. Further, the agricultural park program's statutory limitation prevents lessees from operating a commercial venture within the agricultural park complex. The legislature finds that the department of agriculture should take a more active role in assisting and promoting agriculture-related commercial activity within an agricultural park complex.

The purpose of this Act is to authorize the department of agriculture to allow agriculture-related commercial operations to be conducted by lessees in agricultural park complexes. These commercial activities may include processing, marketing, and displaying agricultural crops or commodities for sale at a common site within the agricultural park complex. A qualifying project shall be for public use and shall promote the public interest and welfare by supporting the economy of the State.

SECTION 2. Chapter 166, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

**“§166- Commercial activity.** The department may allow, in each of its existing and future agricultural parks, the disposition of no more than two lots within an agricultural park for the processing, marketing, and displaying of agricultural crops or commodities, which shall include any product created through value-added processes as defined by rules adopted by the board. The department shall allow agricultural-based commercial venture operations that may sell to the general public; provided that any such lots shall be leased and operated by an agricultural park lessee in good standing with the department.”

SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.<sup>1</sup>

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**SECTION 4.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved July 6, 1999.)

### **Note**

1. Edited pursuant to HRS §23G-16.5.