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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FOOD SECURITY.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that improving food  
2 security is vital to public health. Despite Hawaii's year-round  
3 growing season, approximately only ten per cent of the islands'  
4 food supply is grown locally, with nearly ninety per cent being  
5 imported, resulting in an estimated \$3,000,000,000 in economic  
6 loss to the State. Hawaii's import-heavy food supply system is  
7 at risk of disruption during emergencies. Studies conducted by  
8 researchers at the University of Hawaii have estimated that  
9 there is only an eleven-day supply of food in the State at any  
10 given time, leading the governor to establish a goal of doubling  
11 local food production by 2020.

12           The legislature further finds that the actual percentage of  
13 locally-produced food could vary widely depending on what  
14 measurement system is employed. Local food production can be  
15 measured through various methods, including the pounds of food  
16 produced, the dollar value of total sales of locally-produced  
17 food, the percentage of land acreage used to grow food for local



1 consumption, and unique metrics for each food category, among  
2 other assessments.

3 In addition, the legislature finds that Hawaii does not  
4 have a standardized food security metric system. Accordingly,  
5 in order to increase food security and self-sufficiency, methods  
6 to accurately determine Hawaii's local food production should be  
7 studied to help establish a standardized food security metric  
8 system.

9 The legislature also finds that during the COVID-19  
10 pandemic, economic shortfalls caused financial uncertainty  
11 within Hawaii's food supply chain. Such economic turmoil  
12 exacerbated the food insecurity experienced by residents whose  
13 purchasing power had declined because of reduced employment. To  
14 ensure that Hawaii's people are able to meet their basic needs  
15 during economic downturns, climatological emergencies, and  
16 public health crises, it is imperative that the State increase  
17 its efforts to achieve complete food security.

18 The legislature notes that in May 2020, the state chief  
19 economist estimated that the tourism industry would not recover  
20 to pre-pandemic levels of economic activity for at least five to  
21 six years. To guarantee the financial well-being of Hawaii's



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1 residents and the continuation of essential government services,  
2 it is necessary to replace the islands' prolonged dependence on  
3 tourism with sustainable alternatives to generate fiscal  
4 prosperity. Investing in sustainable agricultural activities  
5 that advance food security and self-sufficiency provide viable  
6 opportunities for long-term economic diversification.

7 The purpose of this Act is to increase food security in  
8 Hawaii by establishing a Hawaii food security initiative program  
9 within the department of agriculture that:

- 10 (1) Identifies a plan for permanent food security in the  
11 State, including deriving a majority of Hawaii's food  
12 supply from locally-produced, sustainable, and  
13 regenerative sources by 2035;
- 14 (2) Recommends additional steps necessary to help increase  
15 food security; and
- 16 (3) Develops an assessment system to accurately determine  
17 how much food is locally produced in the State and how  
18 much food is imported into the State.

19 SECTION 2. Chapter 141, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
20 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
21 and to read as follows:



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1        "§141- Hawaii food security initiative. (a) There is  
2 established, within the department of agriculture, a Hawaii food  
3 security initiative program. The department of agriculture, in  
4 collaboration with the office of planning, shall design and  
5 implement the Hawaii food security initiative program, which  
6 shall include:

7        (1) Identifying a plan to make progress toward achieving  
8 permanent food security for the State, including the  
9 goal of deriving a majority of Hawaii's food supply  
10 from locally-produced, sustainable, and regenerative  
11 sources by 2035;

12        (2) Recommending additional steps necessary to help  
13 increase food security; and

14        (3) Developing an assessment system to accurately  
15 determine how much food is locally produced in the  
16 State and how much food is imported into the State,  
17 taking into account multiple methods of measuring and  
18 calculating local food production, including:

19        (A) Calculating the dollar value in terms of total  
20 sales of locally-produced food;



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- 1           (B) Measuring the weight of locally-produced food in  
2           pounds;
- 3           (C) Assessing metrics that vary based on food  
4           categories;
- 5           (D) Analyzing the nutritional value of locally-  
6           produced food;
- 7           (E) Evaluating access to locally-produced food for  
8           economically disadvantaged communities; and
- 9           (F) Any other metrics deemed relevant by the  
10           department of agriculture.

11           (b) The department of agriculture shall consult with  
12           stakeholders to solicit and incorporate input on food security  
13           activities that may be implemented to help achieve the goals of  
14           the Hawaii food security initiative program, including experts  
15           in sustainable and indigenous agricultural practices.

16           (c) The department of agriculture shall submit a report on  
17           the Hawaii food security initiative program, including any  
18           proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty  
19           days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2022 and  
20           each regular session thereafter."

21           SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.



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

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INTRODUCED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jean Lynch", is written over a horizontal line.

JAN 20 2021



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**Report Title:**

Food Security; Hawaii Food Security Initiative Program;  
Department of Agriculture

**Description:**

Establishes the Hawaii food security initiative program within  
the department of agriculture.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

2021-0340 HB HMSO-1

