
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FOOD SAFETY.

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

1 SECTION 1. Good agricultural practices are guidelines
2 designed by the United States Food and Drug Administration and
3 Department of Agriculture to produce safe products and eliminate
4 potential for product contamination. Good agricultural
5 practices, among other things, include guidance on human
6 hygiene, animals and their manures, water quality for irrigation
7 and produce rinse, and agricultural pesticides. These standards
8 are being adopted by the world's leading farmers, who understand
9 that they have a responsibility to provide the safest food
10 possible to consumers.

11 The Food Safety Modernization Act was recently signed into
12 law. The law authorizes the Food and Drug Administration and
13 the Secretary of Human Services to increase inspections of many
14 domestic food facilities and enhance detection of food borne
15 illnesses.

16 Safe production, distribution, and consumer handling of
17 food requires knowledge of food borne pathogens, chemical
18 toxins, food quality, and labeling. Hawaii's current system of



1 regulation is understaffed, and the remaining staff is
2 unprepared or untrained for the rapid changes that have occurred
3 in risk assessment, production and distribution methodologies,
4 and new foods and emerging pathogens. Food safety programs are
5 also not integrated among government agencies, hampering
6 communication and cooperation.

7 In addition, many of Hawaii's growers are not implementing
8 good agricultural practices. This failure to follow
9 science-based, risk-reducing food production practices is
10 worsened by the existence of the rat lungworm nematode in
11 Hawaii. When consumed, this nematode can cause serious illness,
12 as has happened numerous times during the past few years.

13 The purpose of this Act is to establish a food safety and
14 security program within the department of agriculture.

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

18 **"PART . FOOD SAFETY AND SECURITY PROGRAM**

19 **§141- Food safety and security program; establishment.**

20 There shall be established within the department of agriculture
21 a food safety and security program that shall:



- 1 (1) Provide training, certification, support, and
- 2 assistance to the agricultural industry; and
- 3 (2) Interface with other state and federal agencies to
- 4 meet the requirements of this part.

5 **§141- Objectives; duties.** (a) The objectives of the
6 food safety and security program shall be to:

- 7 (1) Assist the Hawaii agricultural industry in achieving
- 8 food safety and security in a cost-effective and
- 9 efficient manner;
- 10 (2) Provide an integrative system to tie food safety and
- 11 security with other department mandates, including
- 12 biosecurity and quality assurance; and
- 13 (3) Respond effectively to federal rules, regulations, and
- 14 guidelines to minimize harm to Hawaii's agricultural
- 15 industry.

16 (b) To meet the objectives of subsection (a), the
17 department shall:

- 18 (1) Establish, operate, or participate in establishing
- 19 port facilities where agricultural commodities can be
- 20 inspected, quarantined, fumigated, disinfected,
- 21 destroyed, or otherwise treated for any disease;



- 1 (2) Perform all inspections and certifications of
2 agricultural commodities in an efficient, effective,
3 and expeditious manner; and
- 4 (3) Develop and implement programs to educate and develop
5 the agricultural industry to meet state and federal
6 laws, rules, and regulations.

7 For purposes of this section, "agricultural commodities"
8 means any grain, livestock, poultry, fruit, plant, timber, or
9 other item produced from agricultural activities and shall
10 include trees, shrubs, herbs, and other plants."

11 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2011.



Report Title:

Department of Agriculture; Food Safety and Security Program

Description:

Creates the food safety and security program within the Department of Agriculture. Effective July 1, 2011. (HB667 CD1)

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