

JAN 23 2015

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 205-4.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

3 "(a) Within the agricultural district, all lands with soil
4 classified by the land study bureau's detailed land
5 classification as overall (master) productivity rating class A
6 or B and for solar energy facilities, class B or C, shall be
7 restricted to the following permitted uses:

- 8 (1) Cultivation of crops, including crops for bioenergy,
9 flowers, vegetables, foliage, fruits, forage, and
10 timber;
- 11 (2) Game and fish propagation;
- 12 (3) Raising of livestock, including poultry, bees, fish,
13 or other animal or aquatic life that are propagated
14 for economic or personal use;
- 15 (4) Farm dwellings, employee housing, farm buildings, or
16 activities or uses related to farming and animal
17 husbandry. "Farm dwelling", as used in this



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1 paragraph, means a single-family dwelling located on
2 and used in connection with a farm, including clusters
3 of single-family farm dwellings permitted within
4 agricultural parks developed by the State, or where
5 agricultural activity provides income to the family
6 occupying the dwelling;

7 (5) Public institutions and buildings that are necessary
8 for agricultural practices;

9 (6) Public and private open area types of recreational
10 uses, including day camps, picnic grounds, parks, and
11 riding stables, but not including dragstrips,
12 airports, drive-in theaters, golf courses, golf
13 driving ranges, country clubs, and overnight camps;

14 (7) Public, private, and quasi-public utility lines and
15 roadways, transformer stations, communications
16 equipment buildings, solid waste transfer stations,
17 major water storage tanks, and appurtenant small
18 buildings such as booster pumping stations, but not
19 including offices or yards for equipment, material,
20 vehicle storage, repair or maintenance, treatment



- 1 plants, corporation yards, or other similar
- 2 structures;
- 3 (8) Retention, restoration, rehabilitation, or improvement
- 4 of buildings or sites of historic or scenic interest;
- 5 (9) Agricultural-based commercial operations as described
- 6 in section 205-2(d)(15);
- 7 (10) Buildings and uses, including mills, storage, and
- 8 processing facilities, maintenance facilities,
- 9 photovoltaic, biogas, and other small-scale renewable
- 10 energy systems producing energy solely for use in the
- 11 agricultural activities of the fee or leasehold owner
- 12 of the property, and vehicle and equipment storage
- 13 areas that are normally considered directly accessory
- 14 to the above-mentioned uses and are permitted under
- 15 section 205-2(d);
- 16 (11) Agricultural parks;
- 17 (12) Plantation community subdivisions, which as used in
- 18 this chapter means an established subdivision or
- 19 cluster of employee housing, community buildings, and
- 20 agricultural support buildings on land currently or
- 21 formerly owned, leased, or operated by a sugar or



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1 pineapple plantation; provided that the existing
2 structures may be used or rehabilitated for use, and
3 new employee housing and agricultural support
4 buildings may be allowed on land within the
5 subdivision as follows:

6 (A) The employee housing is occupied by employees or
7 former employees of the plantation who have a
8 property interest in the land;

9 (B) The employee housing units not owned by their
10 occupants shall be rented or leased at affordable
11 rates for agricultural workers; or

12 (C) The agricultural support buildings shall be
13 rented or leased to agricultural business
14 operators or agricultural support services;

15 (13) Agricultural tourism conducted on a working farm, or a
16 farming operation as defined in section 165-2, for the
17 enjoyment, education, or involvement of visitors;
18 provided that the agricultural tourism activity is
19 accessory and secondary to the principal agricultural
20 use and does not interfere with surrounding farm
21 operations; and provided further that this paragraph



1 shall apply only to a county that has adopted
2 ordinances regulating agricultural tourism under
3 section 205-5;

4 (14) Agricultural tourism activities, including overnight
5 accommodations of twenty-one days or less, for any one
6 stay within a county; provided that this paragraph
7 shall apply only to a county that includes at least
8 three islands and has adopted ordinances regulating
9 agricultural tourism activities pursuant to section
10 205-5; provided further that the agricultural tourism
11 activities coexist with a bona fide agricultural
12 activity. For the purposes of this paragraph, "bona
13 fide agricultural activity" means a farming operation
14 as defined in section 165-2;

15 (15) Wind energy facilities, including the appurtenances
16 associated with the production and transmission of
17 wind generated energy; provided that the wind energy
18 facilities and appurtenances are compatible with
19 agriculture uses and cause minimal adverse impact on
20 agricultural land;



1 (16) Biofuel processing facilities, including the
2 appurtenances associated with the production and
3 refining of biofuels that is normally considered
4 directly accessory and secondary to the growing of the
5 energy feedstock; provided that biofuel processing
6 facilities and appurtenances do not adversely impact
7 agricultural land and other agricultural uses in the
8 vicinity.

9 For the purposes of this paragraph:

10 "Appurtenances" means operational infrastructure
11 of the appropriate type and scale for economic
12 commercial storage and distribution, and other similar
13 handling of feedstock, fuels, and other products of
14 biofuel processing facilities.

15 "Biofuel processing facility" means a facility
16 that produces liquid or gaseous fuels from organic
17 sources such as biomass crops, agricultural residues,
18 and oil crops, including palm, canola, soybean, and
19 waste cooking oils; grease; food wastes; and animal
20 residues and wastes that can be used to generate
21 energy;



1 (17) Agricultural-energy facilities, including
2 appurtenances necessary for an agricultural-energy
3 enterprise; provided that the primary activity of the
4 agricultural-energy enterprise is agricultural
5 activity. To be considered the primary activity of an
6 agricultural-energy enterprise, the total acreage
7 devoted to agricultural activity shall be not less
8 than [~~ninety~~] 90 per cent of the total acreage of the
9 agricultural-energy enterprise. The agricultural-
10 energy facility shall be limited to lands owned,
11 leased, licensed, or operated by the entity conducting
12 the agricultural activity.

13 As used in this paragraph:

14 "Agricultural activity" means any activity
15 described in paragraphs (1) to (3) of this subsection.

16 "Agricultural-energy enterprise" means an
17 enterprise that integrally incorporates an
18 agricultural activity with an agricultural-energy
19 facility.

20 "Agricultural-energy facility" means a facility
21 that generates, stores, or distributes renewable



1 energy as defined in section 269-91 or renewable fuel
2 including electrical or thermal energy or liquid or
3 gaseous fuels from products of agricultural activities
4 from agricultural lands located in the State.

5 "Appurtenances" means operational infrastructure
6 of the appropriate type and scale for the economic
7 commercial generation, storage, distribution, and
8 other similar handling of energy, including equipment,
9 feedstock, fuels, and other products of agricultural-
10 energy facilities;

11 (18) Construction and operation of wireless communication
12 antennas; provided that, for the purposes of this
13 paragraph, "wireless communication antenna" means
14 communications equipment that is either freestanding
15 or placed upon or attached to an already existing
16 structure and that transmits and receives
17 electromagnetic radio signals used in the provision of
18 all types of wireless communications services;
19 provided further that nothing in this paragraph shall
20 be construed to permit the construction of any new



1 structure that is not deemed a permitted use under
2 this subsection;

3 (19) Agricultural education programs conducted on a farming
4 operation as defined in section 165-2, for the
5 education and participation of the general public;
6 provided that the agricultural education programs are
7 accessory and secondary to the principal agricultural
8 use of the parcels or lots on which the agricultural
9 education programs are to occur and do not interfere
10 with surrounding farm operations. For the purposes of
11 this section, "agricultural education programs" means
12 activities or events designed to promote knowledge and
13 understanding of agricultural activities and practices
14 conducted on a farming operation as defined in section
15 165-2;

16 (20) Solar energy facilities that do not occupy more than
17 [~~ten~~] 10 per cent of the acreage of the parcel, or
18 twenty acres of land, whichever is lesser or for which
19 a special use permit is granted pursuant to section
20 205-6; provided that this use shall not be permitted
21 on lands with soil classified by the land study



1 bureau's detailed land classification as overall
2 (master) productivity rating class A unless the solar
3 energy facilities are:

4 (A) Located on a paved or unpaved road in existence
5 as of December 31, 2013, and the parcel of land
6 upon which the paved or unpaved road is located
7 has a valid county agriculture tax dedication
8 status or a valid agricultural conservation
9 easement;

10 (B) Placed in a manner that still allows vehicular
11 traffic to use the road; and

12 (C) Granted a special use permit by the commission
13 pursuant to section 205-6;

14 (21) Solar energy facilities on lands with soil classified
15 by the land study bureau's detailed land
16 classification as overall (master) productivity rating
17 B or C for which a special use permit is granted
18 pursuant to section 205-6; provided that:

19 (A) The area occupied by the solar energy facilities
20 is also made available for compatible
21 agricultural activities at a lease rate that is



1 at least [~~fifty~~] 50 per cent below the fair
2 market rent for comparable properties;

3 (B) Proof of financial security to decommission the
4 facility is provided to the satisfaction of the
5 appropriate county planning commission prior to
6 date of commencement of commercial generation;
7 and

8 (C) Solar energy facilities shall be decommissioned
9 at the owner's expense according to the following
10 requirements:

11 (i) Removal of all equipment related to the
12 solar energy facility within twelve months
13 of the conclusion of operation or useful
14 life; and

15 (ii) Restoration of the disturbed earth to
16 substantially the same physical condition as
17 existed prior to the development of the
18 solar energy facility.

19 For the purposes of this paragraph, "agricultural
20 activities" means the activities described in
21 paragraphs (1) to (3); [~~or~~]



- 1 (22) Geothermal resources exploration and geothermal
2 resources development, as defined under section
3 182-1[-]; or
- 4 (23) Composting operations; provided that, for the purposes
5 of this paragraph, "composting" means a process in
6 which organic solid wastes, including green or yard
7 waste materials, food scraps, animal manures excluding
8 biosolids (sewage sludge), and non-treated wood chips
9 and shavings, are biologically decomposed and
10 stabilized under controlled conditions to produce a
11 stable humus-like mulch or soil amendment. This term
12 includes the processing of organic and non-treated
13 wood waste materials for the generation of wood chips
14 or other materials that can be used as soil amendment,
15 planting mixes, mulches for horticultural and
16 agricultural applications, and land reclamation. The
17 process of composting under methods approved by the
18 department of health is a recycling activity. Land
19 application of uncomposted organic solid waste shall
20 not be considered an approved solid waste management
21 activity."



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

3 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
4 provided that the amendments made to section 205-4.5(a), Hawaii
5 Revised Statutes, by section 1 of this Act shall not be repealed
6 when that section is reenacted on June 30, 2019, pursuant to
7 section 3 of Act 52, Session Laws of Hawaii 2014.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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Report Title:

Agricultural District Lands; Composting

Description:

Permits composting in agricultural districts on all lands with soil classified by the land study bureau's detailed land classification as overall (master) productivity rating class A or B and for solar energy facilities, class B or C.

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

