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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HAWAII GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii's farms and  
2 farmers reflect the heritage and diversity of many cultures and  
3 are the cornerstones of the State's goals for food security,  
4 sustainability, and self-sufficiency. The number of small farms  
5 in Hawaii has grown substantially during the last ten years,  
6 reflecting a shift in the agricultural landscape from  
7 plantations to smaller farms with diverse cropping and marketing  
8 systems that create new local food sources and increase  
9 employment. This trend necessitates the development and  
10 implementation of risk-reducing guidelines and a science-based  
11 Hawaii good agricultural practices program to decrease the  
12 potential for food product contamination on farms.

13           The legislature further finds that a Hawaii good  
14 agricultural practices program would cover all crops and farms  
15 and integrate risk-reducing practices, similar to the good  
16 agricultural practices of Georgia, Canada, Kenya, Thailand, and  
17 the United States Department of Agriculture Agricultural  
18 Marketing Service's harmonized audit, and support farm practices



1 in a variety of areas. These areas include field management;  
2 proper hygiene; water quality for irrigation and produce rinse;  
3 agricultural chemicals; use of animal manure; pest and on-farm  
4 animal management; pesticide, fertilizer, and soil amendment  
5 use; packing-shed operations and maintenance; and product  
6 trackback.

7 The legislature additionally finds that the Food Safety  
8 Modernization Act of 2011 authorizes the Food and Drug  
9 Administration to develop science- and risk-based criteria for  
10 preventing food-borne illnesses and encourages states to  
11 establish similar criteria for the safe production,  
12 distribution, and consumer handling of food. However, due to  
13 economic thresholds in the legislation and other factors,  
14 relatively few farms in Hawaii will be under the authority of  
15 the Food Safety Modernization Act and the earliest any oversight  
16 will appear, beginning with a dozen of Hawaii's largest farms,  
17 will be the middle of 2017. Thereafter, other farms will come  
18 into compliance. The national focus, however, will be on bigger  
19 agricultural states such as California, Oregon, and Michigan.  
20 Even when the Food Safety Modernization Act produce rule takes



1 effect, the rule will not cover the range of important actions  
2 that are covered under a good agricultural practices program.

3 The legislature also finds that the Hawaii State  
4 Constitution mandates the preservation and protection of  
5 agricultural resources. To fulfill this mandate with safe food  
6 in mind, it is important that the State establish a permanent  
7 good agricultural practices program within the department of  
8 agriculture. Currently, the department has auditors trained in  
9 good agricultural practices. Besides auditing farms at their  
10 request for compliance with good agricultural practices, the  
11 department of agriculture also performs egg, seed, and coffee  
12 inspections. The department of agriculture has a successful  
13 history of agricultural oversight, which is in its operational  
14 mandate.

15 The purpose of this Act is to develop and support good  
16 agricultural practices by establishing a permanent Hawaii good  
17 agricultural practices program for farms growing local  
18 agricultural food products.

19 SECTION 2. Chapter 147, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
20 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
21 and to read as follows:



1            "§147- Hawaii good agricultural practices program. (a)

2            There is established the Hawaii good agricultural practices  
3            program to be administered by the department of agriculture.

4            The purpose of the program is to develop and support good  
5            agricultural practices for Hawaii farms growing agricultural  
6            food products.

7            (b) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary,  
8            the Hawaii good agricultural practices program shall:

9            (1) Develop science- and risk-based good agricultural  
10           practices that reasonably reduce the potential for  
11           on-farm food-borne illness and include, as  
12           appropriate, specific considerations and methodologies  
13           for farm sizes, practices, techniques, materials, and  
14           crops;

15           (2) Develop and implement programs to educate and train  
16           Hawaii farmers to learn and implement good  
17           agricultural practices in a cost-effective and  
18           efficient manner;

19           (3) Provide procedures for the voluntary verification of  
20           on-farm implementation of good agricultural practices

1           and the subsequent issuance of state compliance  
 2           certification; and  
 3           (4) Develop a consumer information program for publication  
 4           and broadcast to teach home practices for the  
 5           treatment and handling of fresh and processed  
 6           agricultural food products.

7           (c) The department shall consult as necessary with the  
 8           department of health, the University of Hawaii college of  
 9           tropical agriculture and human resources, and other state and  
 10           federal agencies to develop and implement the Hawaii good  
 11           agricultural practices program.

12           (d) The department may adopt rules under chapter 91 to  
 13           facilitate the implementation of this section."

14           SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
 15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$300,000 or so much  
 16 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 for the  
 17 implementation of the Hawaii good agricultural practices  
 18 program.

19           The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
 20 agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

1 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

2 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.



**Report Title:**

Department of Agriculture; Hawaii Good Agricultural Practices Program; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes and appropriates funding for the Hawaii Good Agricultural Practices Program to develop and support good agricultural practices for Hawaii farms growing agricultural food products. (HB573 CD1)

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

