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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that supporting local  
2 agriculture is a strategic public investment that will build  
3 community resilience and strengthen the productive base of the  
4 economy. The current lack of young farmers and ranchers with  
5 the experience, skills, and ambition to undertake the rigorous  
6 and complex work of farming and ranching as a business poses a  
7 significant hurdle to revitalizing local agriculture. To  
8 address this problem, the legislature finds that rebuilding  
9 existing programs that educate, support, and encourage youth to  
10 pursue agriculture careers, specifically Future Farmers of  
11 America and 4-H programs, is a timely and efficient means of  
12 achieving community resilience and sustainability. The  
13 legislature further finds that it is important to improve food  
14 security and self-sufficiency in the State by encouraging the  
15 development and implementation of a whole system approach to  
16 agriculture in Hawaii.



1 SECTION 2. The department of agriculture shall provide  
2 grants to support existing whole system approach, on-farm  
3 mentoring programs that provide instruction on:

4 (1) Farming techniques that utilize locally sourced  
5 organic and other ecological and bio-diverse  
6 agricultural amendments and techniques relying on  
7 integrated farming practices using vegetative and  
8 animal waste products and diverse crops for soil  
9 amendments, seed, and other farm inputs;

10 (2) The culturing of indigenous microorganisms; and

11 (3) The recycling of nutrients back onto the farm; and

12 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$60,000 or so much  
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 as a grant  
15 pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to existing  
16 on-farm mentoring programs that provide mentoring on a whole  
17 system approach to agriculture.

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

20 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so



1 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and  
2 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
3 year 2016-2017 for the implementation and operation of the  
4 Future Farmers of America program to educate and support youth  
5 in agriculture careers.

6 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
7 of education for the purposes of this Act.

8 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general  
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
10 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 as a  
11 grant pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to the  
12 Hawaii 4-H Foundation to implement and operate the 4-H program  
13 to educate and support youth in agriculture careers.

14 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of  
15 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

16 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2112.

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**Report Title:**

Agriculture; Food Sustainability; On-Farm Mentoring; Future Farmers of America; 4-H; Appropriations

**Description:**

Directs the DOA to provide grants to support existing whole system approach, on-farm mentoring programs. Appropriates funds as a grant for existing whole system approach, on-farm mentoring programs. Appropriates unspecified sums to the Future Farmers of America program and, as a grant, to the Hawaii 4-H Foundation to educate and support youth in agriculture careers. Takes effect 7/1/2112. (SD1)

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

