

JAN 28 2015

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL THEFT.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that agricultural theft  
2 and agricultural vandalism is a constant worry for farmers and  
3 ranchers. Given the broad acreage that many farming operations  
4 encompass, it is often difficult for farmers to police their  
5 entire operations at all times. Furthermore, vigilance at night  
6 after work hours may be challenging because not all farmers and  
7 ranchers are able to live on or near the fields that they work.  
8 All of these factors make agricultural operations easy prey for  
9 theft and vandalism.

10           The legislature also finds that the county of Hawaii is  
11 known as the breadbasket of the State. However, agricultural  
12 theft and agricultural vandalism have been a constant threat for  
13 farmers and ranchers on the island, increasing the cost of  
14 production and making it more difficult for farming operations  
15 to be successful.

16           The purpose of this Act is to establish a two-year  
17 agricultural theft pilot project to work with the county of



1 Hawaii to hire an enforcement officer within the county of  
2 Hawaii to focus on investigating and prosecuting agricultural  
3 theft.

4 SECTION 2. (a) The department of agriculture shall:

5 (1) Establish a two-year agricultural theft pilot project  
6 to focus on investigating and prosecuting agricultural  
7 theft;

8 (2) Partner with the county of Hawaii to hire an  
9 enforcement officer within the prosecuting attorney's  
10 office;

11 (3) No later than January 1, 2017, assess the  
12 implementation of the pilot project including the  
13 pilot project's effectiveness for:

14 (A) Identifying the number of convictions for  
15 agricultural theft or agricultural vandalism;

16 (B) Identifying best practices for prosecuting  
17 perpetrators of agricultural theft or  
18 agricultural vandalism;

19 (C) Identifying areas where agricultural theft and  
20 agricultural vandalism are most prevalent;



- 1 (D) Identifying best practices for preventing
- 2 agricultural theft or agricultural vandalism; and
- 3 (E) Making recommendations for a statewide program to
- 4 address agricultural theft and agricultural
- 5 vandalism.

6 (b) Based on the department of agriculture's assessment of  
7 the agricultural theft pilot project, the department shall  
8 determine whether to continue, expand, or end the pilot project.

9 (c) The department of agriculture shall submit a report of  
10 its findings and recommendations, including any proposed  
11 legislation, to the legislature no later than December 31, 2016.

12 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$200,000 or so much  
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the  
15 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
16 2016-2017 for the purposes of establishing a two-year  
17 agricultural theft pilot project.

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



# S.B. NO. 1199

1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

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INTRODUCED BY:

*Paul E. Puffer*



# S.B. NO. 1199

**Report Title:**

Agricultural Theft Pilot Project

**Description:**

Establishes a two-year agricultural theft pilot project to investigate the effectiveness of a dedicated enforcement officer focused specifically on prosecuting agricultural theft and agricultural vandalism in the county of Hawaii.

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