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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL FOOD PRODUCTION.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii is located  
2 approximately two thousand five hundred miles from the  
3 continental United States. About eighty-five to ninety per cent  
4 of Hawaii's food is imported, which makes Hawaii particularly  
5 vulnerable to natural disasters and global events that disrupt  
6 shipping and other modes of transporting food. Furthermore, the  
7 economic impact of food import replacement is significant. Food  
8 expenditures of local consumers from 2004 to 2005 totaled  
9 \$3,700,000,000. Assuming that eighty-five per cent of the food  
10 consumed in the State is imported, that means \$3,145,000,000 of  
11 food expenditures leave the State each year. Growing food  
12 within the State enables the expenditures on food to remain in  
13 the local economy.

14           The office of planning, in cooperation with the department  
15 of agriculture, issued a report in October 2012, titled  
16 *Increased Food Security and Food Self-Sufficiency Strategy: A*  
17 *State Strategic/Functional Plan Prepared in Accordance with HRS*



1 Chapter 226 Hawaii State Plan and the Hawaii Comprehensive  
2 Economic Development Strategy. The executive summary of the  
3 report states in pertinent part:

4 The purpose of the *Increased Food Security and Food Self-*  
5 *Sufficiency Strategy (Strategy)* is to increase the amount  
6 of locally grown food consumed by Hawaii residents. This  
7 will increase food self-sufficiency which is a component of  
8 food security. The Strategy is a living document intended  
9 as a first step toward continued dialog and implementation.

10 The three strategic objectives of the *Increased Food*  
11 *Security and Food Self-Sufficiency Strategy* are:

- 12 (1) Increasing demand for and access to locally grown  
13 foods;
- 14 (2) Increasing production of locally grown foods; and
- 15 (3) Providing policy and organizational support to meet  
16 food self-sufficiency needs.

17 The legislature further finds that the development of  
18 higher education systems in Hawaii to promote understanding of  
19 sustainable food production and training a new generation of  
20 students for jobs in the sustainable food and agriculture sector



1 is an essential part of meeting the strategic objectives of the  
2 *Increased Food Security and Food Self-Sufficiency Strategy*.

3 The purpose of this Act is to improve food security and  
4 self-sufficiency in the State by:

5 (1) Encouraging the development and expansion of higher  
6 education focused on sustainable food systems within  
7 the State; and

8 (2) Appropriating funds to achieve that objective.

9 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
11 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 for the  
12 community food systems center at the University of Hawaii, West  
13 Oahu, to expand upon its existing education for sustainable  
14 agricultural food production by:

15 (1) Establishing scholarships for interested students to  
16 enroll in the community food systems concentration at  
17 the University of Hawaii, West Oahu;

18 (2) Creating job opportunities and on-site training by  
19 creating positions for a full-time garden manager and  
20 part-time student assistants for the student organic  
21 garden at the University of Hawaii, West Oahu;



- 1 (3) Creating a Hawaiian center for sustainable community
- 2 food systems, a two hundred-acre education, training,
- 3 outreach, food processing, and applied research
- 4 center;
- 5 (4) Establishing Hawaii State Teachers Association
- 6 professional development days with Oahu high schools
- 7 to encourage education and understanding of
- 8 sustainable food systems; and
- 9 (5) Implementing research projects, hosting conferences,
- 10 and employing additional staff and faculty as the
- 11 director of the program deems necessary.

12 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of  
 13 Hawaii, West Oahu, for the purposes of this Act.

14 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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# H.B. NO. 1279

**Report Title:**

University of Hawaii; Food Security and Self-Sufficiency  
Education

**Description:**

Appropriates funds for the University of Hawaii, West Oahu, to expand its existing programs and develop new means to increase food security and self-sufficiency in the State.

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