

JAN 20 2017

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 Hawaii has not
2 developed a plan to transition its agriculture industry, once
3 dominated by sugar and pineapple, to one that is beneficial for
4 diversified food crops. While diversified agriculture has
5 increased, industry experts estimate that Hawaii imports
6 approximately eighty-five to ninety per cent of the food it
7 consumes.

8 According to a report issued in October 2012 by the office
9 of planning in cooperation with the department of agriculture,
10 entitled "Increased Food Security and Food Self-Sufficiency
11 Strategy: A State Strategic/Functional Plan Prepared in
12 Accordance with HRS Chapter 226 Hawaii State Plan and the Hawaii
13 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy", replacing just ten
14 per cent of the food Hawaii currently imports would amount to
15 approximately \$313,000,000 which would remain in the State and
16 generate more than 2,300 jobs. Investing in farmland and
17 irrigation infrastructure will bring Hawaii closer to becoming



1 self-sufficient, and such local investments will benefit local
2 residents.

3 The legislature further finds that Governor Ige recently
4 set the policy goal of doubling food production by 2020;
5 however, details on how to achieve this objective have yet to be
6 identified. Issues such as preserving agricultural land,
7 identifying food crops for local production, and improving
8 irrigation and agricultural infrastructure need immediate
9 attention so that doubling food production can become a
10 realistic objective. Implications of the Food Safety
11 Modernization Act, which will have significant effects on local
12 agriculture, must also be addressed.

13 The purpose of this Act is to require the governor and
14 board of agriculture to develop a strategic plan outlining
15 benchmarks to achieve the governor's goal of doubling food
16 production by 2020.

17 SECTION 2. (a) The board of agriculture, in cooperation
18 with the office of the governor, shall establish a strategic
19 plan that identifies benchmarks for increased food production in
20 Hawaii and increased exports of food crops and value-added
21 products from Hawaii.



1 (b) The strategic plan shall identify benchmarks that are
2 quantitatively and qualitatively measurable and the metrics to
3 determine progress toward the following goals:

- 4 (1) Double local food production and exports by 2020;
- 5 (2) Identification of food crops that can be grown locally
6 to replace imports and increase exports of food crops
7 and value-added products from Hawaii;
- 8 (3) Identification of lands for the production of food
9 crops that can be grown locally to replace imports,
10 for raising livestock, and for developing value-added
11 products;
- 12 (4) Guidance for decisions regarding land acquisition,
13 irrigation, and agricultural infrastructure; and
- 14 (5) Identification of implications and effects of the Food
15 Safety Modernization Act.

16 (c) The board of agriculture shall submit a report of its
17 finding and recommendations, including proposed strategies,
18 benchmarks, and metrics, to the legislature no later than twenty
19 days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2018 for
20 the purposes of codifying into law the increased food production
21 strategic plan and benchmarks.



S.B. NO. 624

1 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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S.B. NO. 624

Report Title:

Agriculture; Increased Local Food Production; Strategic Plan;
Board of Agriculture; Governor

Description:

Requires the board of agriculture, in cooperation with the office of the governor, to develop a strategic plan to double local food production and exports by 2020. Requires the board of agriculture to submit a report to the legislature prior to the regular session of 2018 in order to codify the strategic plan and benchmarks.

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