
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

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

PART I

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

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



1 The legislature also finds that individuals who are not
2 full-time farmers or ranchers, but who grow food or other
3 agricultural products for their own use or for small-scale sale,
4 may be targets of agricultural product theft and vandalism.
5 This theft and vandalism dispossesses victims of food they have
6 grown, deprives them of a source of income, and reduces their
7 self-sufficiency.

8 The purpose of this part is to establish a two-year
9 agricultural theft and vandalism pilot project to examine the
10 effectiveness of prosecuting agricultural theft and vandalism
11 cases, including theft and vandalism affecting individuals who
12 are not full-time farmers or ranchers, in the county of Hawaii.

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

14 (1) Establish a two-year agricultural theft and vandalism
15 pilot project to examine and assess the effectiveness
16 of prosecuting agricultural theft and agricultural
17 vandalism cases in the county of Hawaii;

18 (2) Examine and assess the effectiveness of prosecuting
19 the theft of agricultural products produced for
20 personal or small-scale commercial use on any land,
21 regardless of land classification;



- 1 (3) Partner with the county of Hawaii to hire two
- 2 enforcement officers within the prosecuting attorney's
- 3 office or any other law enforcement agency; and
- 4 (4) Assess the implementation of the pilot project,
- 5 including the pilot project's effectiveness in:
- 6 (A) Identifying the number of convictions for
- 7 agricultural theft and agricultural vandalism;
- 8 (B) Identifying best practices for prosecuting
- 9 perpetrators of agricultural theft and
- 10 agricultural vandalism;
- 11 (C) Identifying areas where agricultural theft and
- 12 agricultural vandalism are most prevalent;
- 13 (D) Identifying best practices for preventing
- 14 agricultural theft and agricultural vandalism;
- 15 and
- 16 (E) Making recommendations for a statewide program to
- 17 address agricultural theft and agricultural
- 18 vandalism.
- 19 (b) Based on the department of agriculture's assessment of
- 20 the agricultural theft and vandalism pilot project, the



1 department shall determine whether to continue, expand, or end
2 the pilot project.

3 (c) The department of agriculture shall submit a report of
4 its findings and recommendations, including any proposed
5 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
6 to the convening of the regular session of 2020.

7 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$200,000 or so much
9 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the
10 purposes of establishing and implementing a two-year
11 agricultural theft and vandalism pilot project, including the
12 hiring of two full-time equivalent enforcement officers (2.0
13 FTE) for the pilot project.

14 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
15 agriculture for the purposes of this part.

16 PART II

17 SECTION 4. The legislature finds that the quality of local
18 papaya needs improvement to flourish as an export. While the
19 flavor and texture of local papaya is highly desired, shelf life
20 is too short to export in high quantities. Major factors that
21 may contribute to the poor quality of local papaya include the



1 transportation of the product; treatment for fruit fly control;
2 and handling, shipping, and storage of the product prior to
3 distribution.

4 The legislature further finds that developing and
5 establishing protocols to enhance the marketability of Hawaiian
6 papayas can help to expand the market. The establishment of a
7 market standard for Hawaiian papayas will encourage good
8 practices when local farmers grow and harvest papaya.

9 The purpose of this part is to appropriate moneys to the
10 agribusiness development corporation to:

11 (1) Identify factors that affect the quality of local
12 papayas; and

13 (2) Develop and establish protocols to enhance the
14 marketability of Hawaiian papayas.

15 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
17 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 to
18 identify factors that affect the quality of local papayas and to
19 develop and establish protocols to enhance the marketability of
20 Hawaiian papayas.



Report Title:

Agricultural Theft and Vandalism Pilot Project; Agribusiness Development Corporation; Papaya; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes a two-year Agricultural Theft and Vandalism Pilot Project to examine the effectiveness of prosecuting agricultural theft and agricultural vandalism in the County of Hawaii. Appropriates funds. Appropriates moneys to the Agribusiness Development Corporation to identify factors that affect the quality of local papaya and to develop and establish protocols to enhance the marketability of Hawaiian papayas. (SD2)

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