

JAN 24 2019

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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 Hawaii is located  
2 approximately 2,506 miles from the continental United States.  
3 About eighty-five to ninety per cent of Hawaii's food is  
4 imported, which makes Hawaii particularly vulnerable to natural  
5 disasters and global events that disrupt shipping and other  
6 modes of transporting food. Furthermore, the economic impact of  
7 food import replacement is significant. Food expenditures of  
8 local consumers from 2004 to 2005 amounted to \$3,700,000,000.  
9 Assuming that eighty-five per cent of the food consumed in the  
10 State is imported, this translates to \$3,145,000,000 of food  
11 expenditures leaving the State each year. In 2016, the  
12 department of business, economic development, and tourism  
13 released reports on consumer spending in 2014 (2013-2014 survey  
14 period for the city and county of Honolulu) by county. Based on  
15 those reports, each household in Hawaii spent an average of  
16 \$9,100 on food during the survey period. Using the same  
17 estimate of eighty-five per cent for imported food, each



1 household in Hawaii spent an average of \$7,740 on imported food  
2 during the survey period. Growing food within the State enables  
3 these expenditures on food to remain in the local economy.

4 The development of a whole farm system approach to  
5 agriculture in Hawaii that pays close attention to soil health,  
6 specifically increasing mineral availability and improving soil  
7 structure, water-holding capacity, crop health, and food  
8 nutrition levels, will lower water usage through deployment of  
9 green manure, compost, and cover crops; reduce crop loss from  
10 pest damage; and decrease weed pressure. This whole farm system  
11 approach to agriculture can improve food security and benefit  
12 the local economy through reducing production costs by promoting  
13 locally sourced inputs and the manufacturing thereof. Teaching  
14 a new generation of farmers to use this whole farm system  
15 approach will create an alternative method of farming that  
16 appeals to many young farmers across the State. Currently,  
17 there is a shortage of qualified teachers for these farm  
18 methods. Farmer apprentice mentoring aims to fulfill this need  
19 by bringing the students to the farm and providing qualified  
20 farm mentors with funding.



1 The purpose of this Act is to improve food security and  
2 self-sufficiency in the State by encouraging the development and  
3 implementation of a whole farm system approach to agriculture in  
4 Hawaii.

5 SECTION 2. Chapter 141, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
6 amended by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately  
7 designated and to read as follows:

8 "§141- Farmer apprentice mentoring program. (a) There  
9 is established in the department of agriculture a farmer  
10 apprentice mentoring program that shall teach farmers about  
11 methods to improve soil health by using whole farm systems that:

12 (1) Practice sustainable agriculture as defined by the  
13 Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of  
14 1990, Public Law 101-624, title XVI, subtitle A,  
15 section 1603 (codified as 7 United States Code section  
16 3103); and

17 (2) Recycle locally available organic, diverse plant and  
18 animal agricultural nutrients, enhanced by  
19 fermentation and other ecological processes such as  
20 Korean natural farming as defined by the University of





# S.B. NO. 1544

**Report Title:**

Farmer Apprentice Mentoring Program; Whole Farm System;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes a Farmer Apprentice Mentoring Program to teach and train farmers to utilize a whole farm system approach to agriculture. Makes an appropriation to the Department of Agriculture to provide mentoring on a whole farm system approach to agriculture.

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

