
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



1 Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and human
2 resources.

3 (b) The chairperson of the board of agriculture shall
4 establish the curriculum for the farmer apprentice mentoring
5 program."

6 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,000,000 or so much
8 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the
9 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
10 2020-2021 for the farmer apprentice mentoring program to provide
11 mentoring on a whole farm system approach to agriculture.

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

14 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

15 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

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INTRODUCED BY:

Val Oka
Richard Cruz
Romy M. Sakai
Rida Carbonella
Ray De Crito

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H.B. NO. 1505

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.

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