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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO A FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that our state's food  
2 security may be strengthened by growing more food locally and  
3 increasing residents' access to local food. This endeavor may  
4 be supported by establishing food hubs, which are centrally  
5 located facilities with a business management structure that  
6 facilitates the aggregation, storage, processing, distribution,  
7 or marketing of locally produced food products. By actively  
8 coordinating these activities along the value chain, food hubs  
9 may provide wider access to institutional and retail markets for  
10 small to mid-sized producers, and increase consumers' access to  
11 fresh healthy food, including those consumers in underserved  
12 areas and "food deserts."

13           The legislature also finds that food hubs encounter  
14 financial obstacles when seeking to launch or expand their  
15 operations. Therefore, a funding source is needed to support  
16 the establishment and growth of food hubs on a scale that meets



1 demand by state institutions such as schools, hospitals, and  
2 correctional facilities.

3 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish a  
4 five-year food hub pilot program under the department of  
5 agriculture and appropriate funds for the program.

6 SECTION 2. (a) There is established a five-year food hub  
7 pilot program, which shall be administered by the department of  
8 agriculture.

9 (b) The pilot program shall:

10 (1) Adopt the United States Department of Agriculture's  
11 working definition of "food hub," which means "a  
12 centrally located facility with a business management  
13 structure facilitating the aggregation, storage,  
14 processing, distribution, and/or marketing of  
15 locally/regionally produced food products;" and

16 (2) Award grant funding to qualified applicants for the  
17 construction of critical infrastructure to establish  
18 and expand food hubs in each of the counties of Maui,  
19 Kauai, Hawaii, and Honolulu, including:

20 (A) Construction or improvement of facilities for  
21 aggregation, washing, minimal processing,



1 packaging, cold storage, and other value-added  
2 facilities; and

3 (B) Provision of technical assistance to develop in-  
4 state capacity to supply state institutions and  
5 other markets.

6 (c) The department of agriculture shall establish criteria  
7 for the award of initial start-up grant funding or subsequent  
8 expansion funding under the pilot program, including the  
9 following provisions:

10 (1) Priority shall be given to organizations with  
11 demonstrated experience in aggregation, washing,  
12 minimal processing, packaging, cold storage, and other  
13 value-additions for delivering local produce to local  
14 markets;

15 (2) Qualifying applicants shall include corporations,  
16 limited liability companies, partnerships, sole  
17 proprietorships, non-profit organizations, and  
18 agricultural cooperatives that meet necessary  
19 insurance requirements and provide a certificate of  
20 vendor compliance with Hawaii compliance express;



1           (3) Applicants seeking to establish a new food hub in an  
2           area where none currently exists shall have first  
3           secured a physical location for the food hub and  
4           drafted a detailed plan for the food hub's operation,  
5           including activities in which the applicant intends to  
6           engage, such as serving as a marketplace for buying  
7           and selling, or providing certified kitchen space in  
8           which multiple farmers may share use of facilities for  
9           value-added product development; and

10          (4) Applicants shall explain their intended actions to  
11          increase access to locally produced food.

12          (d) The department of agriculture shall adopt rules  
13 pursuant to chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for the  
14 administration and operation of the pilot program.

15          SECTION 3. (a) The department of agriculture shall submit  
16 interim reports on:

- 17          (1) The department's progress in implementing this Act;  
18          (2) Preliminary results of the food hub pilot program; and  
19          (3) The department's findings and recommendations,  
20          including any proposed legislation,



1 to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the  
2 convening of the regular sessions of 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024.

3 (b) The department shall submit a final report of its  
4 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 2025. The report  
7 shall include the results of the food hub pilot program and a  
8 recommendation as to whether the program should be made  
9 permanent, with or without modifications.

10 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for the  
13 establishment of a five-year food hub pilot program, including  
14 the awarding of grant moneys to qualifying food hubs.

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

17 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

HDOA; Food Hub Pilot Program; Grant Funding; Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a 5-year food hub pilot program to increase access to local food. Provides for the award of grant funding to qualified applicants wishing to establish or expand a food hub. Requires reports to the Legislature. Makes an appropriation. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

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

