A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.

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

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the average age of farmers in Hawaii is sixty years, and Hawaii does not have farming workforce large enough for expansion of cultivated agricultural lands and food production. A primary cause of the shortage of new farmers in Hawaii during the past several decades has been the decline of support for agriculture education from state government, including training for agriculture teachers, resulting in an insufficient interest in pursuing the fields of agriculture and natural resource management among youth.

The legislature further finds that prospective farmers in the State face numerous challenges, including access to land. Furthermore, farming today requires a more diverse skill set than in the past, including crop and livestock production, marketing, food safety, regulatory compliance, environmental stewardship, business skills, and more. While ancestral Hawaiians were completely self-sufficient, Hawaii currently
imports approximately eighty-five to ninety per cent of the
State's food, and the health of Hawaii's people, land, and food
system is suffering.

The legislature additionally finds that to meet the State's
aspirations for increased food security and self-sufficiency,
the number of local farms and farmers and the amount of food
produced for local markets will need to increase significantly.
Agriculture education is key to the development of future
farmers and to a society that values and understands the vital
role of agriculture, food, fiber, and natural resource systems
in advancing personal, local, and global well-being. During the
past decade, a vibrant grassroots movement in support of
agriculture education has emerged in Hawaii, along with a marked
increase in new farmer training programs and student involvement
in Future Farmers of America.

To encourage this momentum, the Hawaii state senate passed
Senate Resolution No. 80, Regular Session of 2015, that
requested the University of Hawaii at Manoa college of tropical
agriculture and human resources to "convene a working group to
develop a coordinated framework of support for preschool through
post-secondary (P-20) agriculture education and a plan for
implementation", including any proposed legislation, through annual reports to the legislature prior to the 2017, 2018, and 2019 legislative sessions.

For three years, the University of Hawaii at Manoa college of tropical agriculture and human resources convened the P-20 agriculture education working group, which includes governmental and non-governmental stakeholders. The group's final report to the 2019 legislature outlines a coordinated framework of support for P-20 agriculture education in Hawaii. The legislature finds that effectuation of the coordinated framework of support for P-20 agriculture education in Hawaii by the workforce development coordinator and the P-20 agriculture education working group will result in an increased:

(1) Number of students exposed to agriculture education at all grade levels (P-20) in public, charter, and independent schools;

(2) Number of public school students entering and completing the career and technical education natural resources career pathway in agriculture;

(3) Number of student entering and completing higher education programs in agriculture and food systems;
(4) Number of teachers trained in agriculture education;
(5) Number of local farms and farmers; and
(6) Local food supply and food security.

Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish and fund the workforce development coordinator position within the department of education to oversee ongoing communication and collaboration of the P-20 agriculture education working group and to lead the implementation plan for a coordinated framework of support for P-20 agriculture education in Hawaii.

SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"§302A- Workforce development coordinator. There is established within the department the position of coordinator of preschool through post-secondary (P-20) agriculture education to oversee ongoing communication and collaboration of the P-20 agriculture education working group and to lead implementation of the coordinated framework of support for P-20 agriculture education in Hawaii."

SECTION 3. The workforce development coordinator and the P-20 agriculture education working group, convened pursuant to
Senate Resolution No. 80, regular session of 2015, shall carry out the implementation plan for the coordinated framework of support for P-20 agriculture education in Hawaii as follows:

1. Teacher development: Prioritize teacher training in agriculture and food systems education at all preschool through postsecondary schooling levels, including:
   (A) Pre-service teachers, or those individuals preparing to become a teacher; and
   (B) In-service teachers, or those individuals who currently teach in a classroom;

2. Curricular integration: Integrate agriculture education into the core curriculum in all subject areas at all preschool through postsecondary schooling levels;

3. Agriculture educators: Establish and fund positions at the state, community, and school levels that directly support teacher development and curricular integration around agriculture and food systems; and
(4) Capacity building: Engage in actions that foster capacity building in support of strengthened and expanded agriculture education in the State by:

(A) Continuing communication and collaboration of the P-20 agriculture education working group and subcommittees;

(B) Planning and conducting ongoing needs assessments and progress evaluations;

(C) Cultivating new partnerships and seeking alignment with other relevant initiatives, including the department of labor and industrial relations agriculture workforce advisory group;

(D) Identifying and writing proposals for additional sources of funding; and

(E) Overseeing publication of an annual report to the legislature.

SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of $ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for a workforce development coordinator position within the department of education to oversee ongoing communication and collaboration
of the P-20 agriculture education working group and to lead the implementation plan for a coordinated framework of support for P-20 agriculture education in Hawaii.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of education for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.
Report Title:
DOE; Workforce Development Coordinator; P-20 Agriculture Education Working Group; Appropriation

Description:
Establishes within the department of education the workforce development coordinator position. Specifies duties of the coordinator and P-20 agriculture education working group. Appropriates funds. Takes effect on 7/1/2050. (HD1)

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