
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HAWAII GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii's farms and
2 farmers reflect the heritage and diversity of many cultures and
3 are the cornerstones of the State's goals for food security,
4 sustainability, and self-sufficiency. The number of small farms
5 in Hawaii has grown substantially during the last ten years,
6 reflecting a shift in the agricultural landscape from
7 plantations to smaller farms with diverse cropping and marketing
8 systems that create new local food sources and increase
9 employment. This trend necessitates the development and
10 implementation of risk-reducing guidelines and a science-based
11 Hawaii good agricultural practices program to decrease the
12 potential for food product contamination on farms.

13 The legislature further finds that a Hawaii good
14 agricultural practices program would cover all crops and farms
15 and integrate risk-reducing practices, similar to the good
16 agricultural practices of Georgia, Canada, Kenya, Thailand, and
17 the United States Department of Agriculture Agricultural



1 Marketing Service's harmonized audit, and support farm practices
2 in a variety of areas. These areas include field management;
3 proper hygiene; water quality for irrigation and produce rinse;
4 agricultural chemicals; use of animal manure; pest and on-farm
5 animal management; pesticide, fertilizer, and soil amendment
6 use; packing-shed operations and maintenance; and product
7 trackback.

8 The legislature additionally finds that the Food Safety
9 Modernization Act of 2011 authorizes the Food and Drug
10 Administration to develop science- and risk-based criteria for
11 preventing food-borne illnesses and encourages states to
12 establish similar criteria for the safe production,
13 distribution, and consumer handling of food. However, due to
14 economic thresholds in the legislation and other factors,
15 relatively few farms in Hawaii will be under the authority of
16 the Food Safety Modernization Act and the earliest any oversight
17 will appear, beginning with a dozen of Hawaii's largest farms,
18 will be the middle of 2017. Thereafter, other farms will come
19 into compliance. The national focus, however, will be on bigger
20 agricultural states such as California, Oregon, and Michigan.
21 Even when the Food Safety Modernization Act produce rule takes



1 effect, the rule will not cover the range of important actions
2 that are covered under a good agricultural practices program.

3 The legislature also finds that the Hawaii State
4 Constitution mandates the preservation and protection of
5 agricultural resources. To fulfill this mandate with safe food
6 in mind, it is important that the State establish a permanent
7 good agricultural practices program within the department of
8 agriculture. Currently, the department has auditors trained in
9 good agricultural practices. Besides auditing farms at their
10 request for compliance with good agricultural practices, the
11 department of agriculture also performs egg, seed, and coffee
12 inspections. The department of agriculture has a successful
13 history of agricultural oversight, which is in its operational
14 mandate.

15 The purpose of this Act is to develop and support good
16 agricultural practices by establishing a permanent Hawaii good
17 agricultural practices program for farms growing local
18 agricultural food products.

19 SECTION 2. Chapter 147, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
20 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
21 and to read as follows:



H.B. NO. 573

1 "§147- Hawaii good agricultural practices program. (a)

2 There is established the Hawaii good agricultural practices
3 program to be administered by the department of agriculture.

4 The purpose of the program is to develop and support good
5 agricultural practices for Hawaii farms growing agricultural
6 food products.

7 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary,
8 the Hawaii good agricultural practices program shall:

9 (1) Develop science- and risk-based good agricultural
10 practices that reasonably reduce the potential for
11 on-farm food-borne illness and include, as
12 appropriate, specific considerations and methodologies
13 for farm sizes, practices, techniques, materials, and
14 crops;

15 (2) Develop and implement programs to educate and train
16 Hawaii farmers to learn and implement good
17 agricultural practices in a cost-effective and
18 efficient manner;

19 (3) Provide procedures for the voluntary verification of
20 on-farm implementation of good agricultural practices



1 and the subsequent issuance of state compliance
2 certification; and
3 (4) Develop a consumer information program for publication
4 and broadcast to teach home practices for the
5 treatment and handling of fresh and processed
6 agricultural food products.

7 (c) The department shall consult as necessary with the
8 department of health, the University of Hawaii college of
9 tropical agriculture and human resources, and other state and
10 federal agencies to develop and implement the Hawaii good
11 agricultural practices program.

12 (d) The department may adopt rules under chapter 91 to
13 facilitate the implementation of this section."

14 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
16 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and
17 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
18 year 2016-2017 for the implementation of the Hawaii good
19 agricultural practices program.

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



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1 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

2 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

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H.B. NO. 573

Report Title:

Department of Agriculture; Hawaii Good Agricultural Practices Program; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the Hawaii good agricultural practices program to develop and support good agricultural practices for Hawaii farms growing agricultural food products.

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