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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATED TO AGRICULTURE.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawai'i's traditional  
2 farming systems, such as loko i'a (fishponds), māla (cultivated  
3 gardens), and lo'i (irrigated patches), were important  
4 agricultural technologies that once sustained a thriving and  
5 robust island community. The legislature further finds that  
6 these traditional Hawaiian farming systems still play a critical  
7 role in Hawai'i and should be encouraged to promote greater self-  
8 sufficiency, crop diversity, and food security. Moreover,  
9 traditional Hawaiian crops like kalo, 'uala (sweet potato), limu  
10 (various seaweeds), 'awa, hō'i'o (large native fern), and 'olena  
11 (turmeric) that were cultivated using these traditional Hawaiian  
12 farming techniques continue to be important agricultural  
13 products for food, medicine, and cultural practices today.

14           Prioritizing traditional agricultural techniques such as  
15 traditional Hawaiian farming is increasingly viewed as good  
16 policy. The United Nations Commission on Trade and Development  
17 urges nation states to support the development of sustainable



1 small-scale farms and traditional farming systems to achieve  
2 food security, particularly in light of climate change.  
3 Supporting traditional farming is also consistent with the  
4 recommendations of the taro security and purity task force's  
5 2010 legislative report *E ola hou ke kalo; ho'i hou ka 'āina*  
6 *lē'ia: The taro lives; abundance returns to the land.* The  
7 report emphasizes the need to invest in traditional farming and  
8 crops to perpetuate culture, and to support disaster  
9 preparedness and food security in our islands.

10 The legislature finds that article XI, section 3, of the  
11 Constitution of the State of Hawai'i requires the legislature to  
12 provide standards and criteria to increase Hawai'i's agricultural  
13 self-sufficiency.

14 The purpose of this Act is to update the State's  
15 agricultural planning statute to add the growth and development  
16 of traditional Hawaiian farming systems and traditional Hawaiian  
17 crops, as well as the growth and development of small-scale  
18 farms, as agricultural objectives of the State.

19 SECTION 2. Section 226-7, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, is  
20 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:



1           "(b) To achieve the agriculture objectives, it shall be  
2 the policy of this State to:

3           (1) Establish a clear direction for Hawaii's agriculture  
4 through stakeholder commitment and advocacy.

5           (2) Encourage agriculture by making the best use of  
6 natural resources.

7           (3) Provide the governor and the legislature with  
8 information and options needed for prudent decision-  
9 making for the development of agriculture.

10          (4) Establish strong relationships between the  
11 agricultural and visitor industries for mutual  
12 marketing benefits.

13          (5) Foster increased public awareness and understanding of  
14 the contributions and benefits of agriculture as a  
15 major sector of Hawaii's economy.

16          (6) Seek the enactment and retention of federal and state  
17 legislation that benefits Hawaii's agricultural  
18 industries.

19          (7) Strengthen diversified agriculture by developing an  
20 effective promotion, marketing, and distribution



- 1 system between Hawaii's food producers and consumers  
2 in the State, nation, and world.
- 3 (8) Support research and development activities that  
4 strengthen economic productivity in agriculture,  
5 stimulate greater efficiency, and enhance the  
6 development of new products and agricultural by-  
7 products.
- 8 (9) Enhance agricultural growth by providing public  
9 incentives and encouraging private initiatives.
- 10 (10) Assure the availability of agriculturally suitable  
11 lands with adequate water to accommodate present and  
12 future needs.
- 13 (11) Increase the attractiveness and opportunities for an  
14 agricultural education and livelihood.
- 15 (12) In addition to the State's priority on food, expand  
16 Hawaii's agricultural base by promoting growth and  
17 development of flowers, tropical fruits and plants,  
18 livestock, feed grains, forestry, food crops,  
19 aquaculture, and other potential enterprises.
- 20 (13) Promote economically competitive activities that  
21 increase Hawaii's agricultural self-sufficiency,



1 including the increased purchase and use of Hawaii-  
2 grown food and food products by residents, businesses,  
3 and governmental bodies as defined under section  
4 103D-104.

5 (14) Promote and assist in the establishment of sound  
6 financial programs for diversified agriculture.

7 (15) Institute and support programs and activities to  
8 assist the entry of displaced agricultural workers  
9 into alternative agricultural or other employment.

10 (16) Facilitate the transition of agricultural lands in  
11 economically nonfeasible agricultural production to  
12 economically viable agricultural uses.

13 (17) Perpetuate, promote, and increase use of traditional  
14 Hawaiian farming systems, such as the use of loko i'a,  
15 māla, and irrigated lo'i, and growth of traditional  
16 Hawaiian crops, such as kalo, 'uala, and 'ulu.

17 (18) Increase and develop small-scale farms."

18 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

19 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



**Report Title:**

OHA Package; Agriculture; Hawaii State Plan

**Description:**

Includes traditional Hawaiian farming systems, traditional Hawaiian crops, and small-scale farming to the Hawaii state plan objectives and policies for the economy. (SB434 HD1)

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

