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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FARMS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii imports far  
2 more goods and services than it exports. Thus, Hawaii has a  
3 significant negative trade flow. Hawaii makes up for this  
4 negative trade flow by relying on tourism and military  
5 expenditures. However, this reliance on external sources of  
6 revenue may not be sustainable in the long run.

7           The legislature also finds that the two largest trade  
8 imbalances are in the areas of energy and agriculture. Over the  
9 past few years, Hawaii has been addressing its over-reliance on  
10 imported fossil fuels. Hawaii needs to address the imbalance in  
11 agricultural trade and significantly expand food production in  
12 the State.

13           The legislature further finds that the growth of small,  
14 diversified farming businesses will add to and diversify  
15 Hawaii's economy and help redress the imbalance in agricultural  
16 trade. Therefore, the State should encourage and support the  
17 growth of new, small, and diversified farming businesses by



1 creating an exclusion from income tax for the lesser of a  
 2 specified percentage or amount of gross annual income earned for  
 3 such businesses. A partial tax exclusion for such businesses  
 4 will not significantly affect existing tax revenue collected by  
 5 the State but will strengthen the state economy and improve the  
 6 long-term economic well-being of the State as a whole.

7 SECTION 2. Section 235-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
 8 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

9 "(a) There shall be excluded from gross income, adjusted  
 10 gross income, and taxable income:

11 (1) Income not subject to taxation by the State under the  
 12 Constitution and laws of the United States;

13 (2) Rights, benefits, and other income exempted from  
 14 taxation by section 88-91, having to do with the state  
 15 retirement system, and the rights, benefits, and other  
 16 income, comparable to the rights, benefits, and other  
 17 income exempted by section 88-91, under any other  
 18 public retirement system;

19 (3) Any compensation received in the form of a pension for  
 20 past services;



- 1           (4) Compensation paid to a patient affected with Hansen's  
2           disease employed by the State or the United States in  
3           any hospital, settlement, or place for the treatment  
4           of Hansen's disease;
- 5           (5) Except as otherwise expressly provided, payments made  
6           by the United States or this State, under an act of  
7           Congress or a law of this State, which by express  
8           provision or administrative regulation or  
9           interpretation are exempt from both the normal and  
10          surtaxes of the United States, even though not so  
11          exempted by the Internal Revenue Code itself;
- 12          (6) Any income expressly exempted or excluded from the  
13          measure of the tax imposed by this chapter by any  
14          other law of the State, it being the intent of this  
15          chapter not to repeal or supersede any such express  
16          exemption or exclusion;
- 17          (7) Income received by each member of the reserve  
18          components of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps,  
19          or Coast Guard of the United States of America, and  
20          the Hawaii National Guard as compensation for  
21          performance of duty, equivalent to pay received for



1           forty-eight drills (equivalent of twelve weekends) and  
2           fifteen days of annual duty, at an:

3           (A) E-1 pay grade after eight years of service;  
4                 provided that this subparagraph shall apply to  
5                 taxable years beginning after December 31, 2004;

6           (B) E-2 pay grade after eight years of service;  
7                 provided that this subparagraph shall apply to  
8                 taxable years beginning after December 31, 2005;

9           (C) E-3 pay grade after eight years of service;  
10                provided that this subparagraph shall apply to  
11                taxable years beginning after December 31, 2006;

12           (D) E-4 pay grade after eight years of service;  
13                provided that this subparagraph shall apply to  
14                taxable years beginning after December 31, 2007;  
15                and

16           (E) E-5 pay grade after eight years of service;  
17                provided that this subparagraph shall apply to  
18                taxable years beginning after December 31, 2008;

19           (8) Income derived from the operation of ships or aircraft  
20                if the income is exempt under the Internal Revenue  
21                Code pursuant to the provisions of an income tax



1 treaty or agreement entered into by and between the  
2 United States and a foreign country[+];[+] provided  
3 that the tax laws of the local governments of that  
4 country reciprocally exempt from the application of  
5 all of their net income taxes, the income derived from  
6 the operation of ships or aircraft that are documented  
7 or registered under the laws of the United States;

8 (9) The value of legal services provided by a legal  
9 service plan to a taxpayer, the taxpayer's spouse, and  
10 the taxpayer's dependents;

11 (10) Amounts paid, directly or indirectly, by a legal  
12 service plan to a taxpayer as payment or reimbursement  
13 for the provision of legal services to the taxpayer,  
14 the taxpayer's spouse, and the taxpayer's dependents;

15 (11) Contributions by an employer to a legal service plan  
16 for compensation (through insurance or otherwise) to  
17 the employer's employees for the costs of legal  
18 services incurred by the employer's employees, their  
19 spouses, and their dependents; [~~and~~]

20 (12) Amounts received in the form of a monthly surcharge by  
21 a utility acting on behalf of an affected utility



1 under section 269-16.3; provided that amounts retained  
2 by the acting utility for collection or other costs  
3 shall not be included in this exemption~~(-)~~; and

4 (13) The lesser of \_\_\_\_\_ per cent of gross annual income or  
5 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ of gross annual income earned by a farmer  
6 from farming activities.

7 For purposes of this paragraph:

8 "Farmer" means a person earning more than \_\_\_\_\_  
9 per cent of the person's annual gross income from the  
10 sale of farm products and value-added farm products  
11 grown, raised, and value-added by the person.

12 "Farm products" means products produced from:

13 (A) The cultivation of crops, including crops  
14 for bioenergy, flowers, vegetables, foliage,  
15 fruits, forage, and timber;

16 (B) Game and fish propagation; and

17 (C) The raising of livestock, including poultry,  
18 bees, fish, or other animal or aquatic life  
19 that are propagated for economic use;

20 provided that farm products shall not include products  
21 for personal use."



1 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

3 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050, and  
4 shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2020.



**Report Title:**

Farming Activities; Farmers; Income Tax Exclusion

**Description:**

Creates an exclusion from income tax for the lesser of a percentage of gross annual income or an amount of gross annual income earned by a farmer from farming activities. 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.*

