
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that new and aspiring
2 farmers face a myriad of challenges, including acquiring
3 adequate production and business knowledge and skills and
4 accessing the tools necessary to evaluate their resources and
5 develop feasible farming and business plans. The legislature
6 finds that it is necessary to support beginning farmers in the
7 State; however, the State lacks qualified farming method
8 teachers and funding for beginning farmer training.
9 Furthermore, although the United States Department of
10 Agriculture provides funding for beginning farmers, this funding
11 is limited and unreliable. The legislature believes that a
12 farmer apprentice mentoring program could increase farming in
13 the State, ensure the continued use of well-developed farming
14 methods, and provide for the cultivation of new farming methods.

15 The legislature believes that the future of the State's
16 farming industry, food supply, and agriculture is reliant upon
17 increasing and diversifying the number of new farmers in the



1 State; introducing regenerative farming methods into the State;
2 enhancing the long-term viability of farm businesses; utilizing
3 and building upon existing beginning farmer training methods;
4 providing opportunities for potential farmers who are socially
5 or financially disadvantaged; and increasing support for
6 beginning farmers who already own or manage a farm and have
7 farmed for five years or less.

8 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish the
9 farmer apprentice mentoring program, to be administered by the
10 department of agriculture.

11 SECTION 2. Chapter 141, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
12 amended by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately
13 designated and to read as follows:

14 "§141- Farmer apprentice mentoring program;
15 established. (a) There is established the farmer apprentice
16 mentoring program, to be administered by the department of
17 agriculture, to support farmer mentors in training apprentices
18 on methods for improving soil health by using a whole farm
19 system approach.

20 (b) The department of agriculture shall:



- 1 (1) Collaborate with, consult with, and provide funding
2 and information to qualified farmer mentorship
3 providers to fund apprenticeships for bona fide Hawaii
4 farmers;
- 5 (2) Implement strategies to increase the number of new
6 farmers in the State, with a focus on recruiting low-
7 income persons, disabled persons, and military
8 veterans;
- 9 (3) Assist qualified farmer mentorship providers seeking
10 federal and county funding to expand their training
11 and mentorship offerings;
- 12 (4) Evaluate and report to the legislature on the
13 effectiveness of the farmer apprentice mentoring
14 program;
- 15 (5) Subject to the availability of funding, allocate
16 funding to as many qualified farmer mentorship
17 providers as is practical to achieve the purposes of
18 the farmer apprentice mentoring program; and
- 19 (6) Retain records of all activities and costs related to
20 the implementation of the farmer apprentice mentoring
21 program.



1 (c) A farmer apprentice shall be eligible for training
2 under the farmer apprentice mentoring program for a maximum of
3 one year; provided that the farmer apprentice:

4 (1) Qualifies for Hawaii resident tuition or provides
5 proof that the farmer apprentice has been farming for
6 five years or less; and

7 (2) Demonstrates an interest in pursuing a career in
8 Hawaii's agricultural industry.

9 (d) Subject to the availability of funding, the department
10 of agriculture may enter into contracts with qualified farmer
11 mentorship providers on a first-come, first-served basis, and in
12 accordance with section 103D-304, to effectuate the purposes of
13 this section; provided that:

14 (1) No farmer mentorship provider shall receive more than
15 \$ per year in apprenticeship stipends;

16 (2) Funding under this section shall cover \$ per
17 farmer apprentice per year and constitute up to a
18 maximum of fifty per cent of total farmer apprentice
19 wages for that given year;

20 (3) The term of any apprenticeship contract shall not
21 exceed one year;



- 1 (4) A qualified farmer mentorship provider shall not
2 receive more than \$ in the aggregate during
3 any five-year period for services procured pursuant to
4 this section; and
- 5 (5) Any requests for proposals submitted by farmer
6 mentorship providers pursuant to this section shall
7 include:
- 8 (A) The qualifications of the farmer mentorship
9 provider;
- 10 (B) The types and quantities of training and
11 mentoring services offered, including the number
12 of hours of hands-on instruction;
- 13 (C) The criteria for evaluating the success of the
14 farmer apprentice;
- 15 (D) The total estimated cost of the farmer mentorship
16 provider's services to the department of
17 agriculture;
- 18 (E) The proposed dates of training and mentoring; and
19 (F) A summary of any previous funding received
20 pursuant to this section.



1 (e) Farmer mentorship services procured pursuant to
2 subsection (d) may include the following topics:

3 (1) The proper methods of:

4 (A) Improving soil health by using a whole farm
5 system approach;

6 (B) Planting, tending, cultivating, and harvesting
7 various types of crops; and

8 (C) Raising livestock or poultry;

9 (2) Agricultural business operations, including workforce
10 issues, regulatory compliance, and general operations;
11 and

12 (3) Analysis of the agricultural industry and related
13 markets.

14 (f) A qualified farmer mentorship provider that provides
15 services pursuant to this section shall make all relevant
16 training and mentoring materials, sites, and facilities
17 available for inspection and examination by the department of
18 agriculture during regular business hours.

19 (g) The department of agriculture shall submit a report to
20 the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening



1 of each regular session. The report shall include, at a
2 minimum:

3 (1) The number of farmer apprentices enrolled in the
4 farmer apprentice mentoring program during the
5 preceding year;

6 (2) A listing of all qualified farmer mentorship
7 providers;

8 (3) An assessment of the ability of farmer mentorship
9 providers participating in the program to complete
10 program objectives and work tasks identified by the
11 department of agriculture; and

12 (4) An evaluation of the results achieved by the farmer
13 apprentice mentoring program, to be written, to the
14 extent possible, in measurable and quantifiable
15 terms."

16 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
18 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 to
19 establish and implement the farmer apprentice mentoring program
20 pursuant to section 2 of this Act to provide mentoring to farmer
21 apprentices on a whole farm system approach to agriculture.



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

3 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

4 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2050.



S.B. NO. 3197
S.D. 2
H.D. 1

Report Title:

HDOA; Farmer Apprentice Mentoring Program; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes a farmer apprentice mentoring program. Makes an appropriation to the department of agriculture to establish and implement the program. Appropriates funds. Effective 1/1/2050.
(HD1)

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