
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that a sustainable food
2 system is one in which producers, retailers, members of the
3 community, non-governmental organizations, and government
4 agencies partner to create a vibrant and resilient local food
5 economy that enhances and sustains the environmental, economic,
6 and social health of the community.

7 The legislature further finds that developing a more
8 sustainable food system in Hawaii represents an opportunity to
9 create a new food economy that integrates the objectives of
10 "green" job creation, sustainable economic development, land
11 stewardship, food security, environmental protection, and
12 climate change resiliency with community health and well-being.

13 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to establish within
14 the department of agriculture a sustainable food systems working
15 group to develop an interagency food systems plan.

16 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the department
17 of agriculture the sustainable food systems working group. The



1 working group shall identify a governance structure and
2 implementation plan for an interagency food systems plan linked
3 to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals for a more
4 sustainable, resilient local food economy that enhances and
5 sustains the environmental, economic, and social health of the
6 community.

7 (b) The sustainable food systems working group shall be
8 composed of the following members:

- 9 (1) One member of the house of representatives, to be
10 selected by the speaker of the house of
11 representatives;
- 12 (2) One member of the senate, to be selected by the
13 president of the senate;
- 14 (3) A representative of the Hawaii tourism authority, to
15 be selected by the president and chief executive
16 officer of the Hawaii tourism authority;
- 17 (4) Two representatives of the University of Hawaii system
18 who have experience in food systems, to be selected by
19 the dean of the college of tropical agriculture and
20 human resources;



- 1 (5) A representative of the department of agriculture, to
2 be selected by the chairperson of the board of
3 agriculture;
- 4 (6) A representative of the office of climate change,
5 sustainability and resiliency of the city and county
6 of Honolulu, to be selected by the chief resilience
7 officer and executive director of the office of
8 climate change, sustainability and resiliency of the
9 city and county of Honolulu;
- 10 (7) A representative of the department of Native Hawaiian
11 health of the John A. Burns school of medicine of the
12 University of Hawaii, to be selected by the chair of
13 the department of Native Hawaiian health;
- 14 (8) Two members of the Native Hawaiian community, to be
15 selected by the chairperson of the board of
16 agriculture; provided that one of the members shall be
17 a resident of a county other than the city and county
18 of Honolulu;
- 19 (9) A representative of the Hawaii Farm Bureau, to be
20 selected by the president of the Hawaii Farm Bureau;



- 1 (10) A representative of the Hawaii Foodbank, to be
2 selected by the president and chief executive officer
3 of the Hawaii Foodbank;
- 4 (11) A representative of the agricultural sector, to be
5 selected by the chairperson of the board of
6 agriculture;
- 7 (12) Four representatives of the agricultural sector, of
8 which each member shall represent one of the counties
9 of Hawaii, Kauai, Maui, or the city and county of
10 Honolulu, to be selected by the respective mayor of
11 each county;
- 12 (13) A representative of the farm-to-school community in
13 Hawaii, to be selected by the chairperson of the board
14 of agriculture;
- 15 (14) A representative of the Hawaii Foodservice Alliance,
16 to be selected by the owner of the Hawaii Foodservice
17 Alliance;
- 18 (15) A representative of the Hawaii Food Industry
19 Association, to be selected by the executive director
20 of the Hawaii Food Industry Association;



1 (16) A representative of the Hawaii Farmers Union United,
2 to be selected by the President of the Hawaii Farmers
3 Union United;

4 (17) A representative of the Hawaii Fishermen's Alliance
5 for Conservation and Tradition, to be selected by the
6 president of the Hawaii Fishermen's Alliance for
7 Conservation and Tradition;

8 (18) A representative of the commercial fishing sector of
9 the State, to be selected by the administrator of the
10 department of land and natural resources division of
11 aquatic resources; and

12 (19) One representative of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council,
13 Inc. to be selected by the president of the Hawaii
14 Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

15 (c) The chairperson of the board of agriculture shall
16 serve as chair of the sustainable food systems working group.

17 (d) The interagency food systems plan shall address the
18 following:

19 (1) Food as a human right and healthy food for all;

20 (2) Social equity and food justice;

21 (3) Food system resilience;



- 1 (4) Agriculture and food system sustainability;
- 2 (5) Food at the center of a circular economy;
- 3 (6) Sustainable education, workforce development, and fair
- 4 labor; and
- 5 (7) Good food governance.

6 (e) The sustainable food systems working group shall
7 submit its plan and any recommendations for implementation of
8 the plan, including any proposed legislation, to the legislature
9 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular
10 session of 2025.

11 (f) The department of agriculture shall provide any
12 necessary staff support, including for the preparation of the
13 plan identified in subsection (a), to the sustainable food
14 systems working group.

15 (g) The sustainable food systems working group shall be
16 dissolved on June 30, 2025.

17 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
19 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and
20 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
21 year 2024-2025 for the purpose of establishing the sustainable

1 food systems working group and implementing section 2 of this
2 Act, including coordinating stakeholder meetings; managing
3 public meetings and website data management in accordance with
4 chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statutes; writing and printing the
5 plan; and potentially obtaining services for a fee.

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

8 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
10 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and
11 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
12 year 2024-2025 for full-time equivalent
13 (FTE) sustainability specialist position in the
14 department of agriculture.

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

17 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.



Report Title:

Sustainable Food Systems Working Group; Department of
Agriculture; Plan; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the sustainable food systems working group within the Department of Agriculture. Requires the working group to submit a plan, any recommendations for implementing the plan, and any proposed legislation to the legislature. Appropriates funds to establish the working group and develop the plan and for an unspecified number of sustainability specialist positions to be employed by the Department of Agriculture. (SD1)

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