

____.B. NO.____

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL LANDS.

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

1 SECTION 1. Article XI, section 3 of the Hawaii State
2 Constitution establishes the State's duty to "conserve and
3 protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture,
4 increase agricultural self-sufficiency and assure the
5 availability of agriculturally suitable lands" and provides
6 protections for lands identified as important agricultural
7 lands. In service of this duty, the legislature enacted Act
8 183, Session Laws of Hawaii 2005, which was codified in part III
9 of chapter 205, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

10 Act 183 directed each county to work with government and
11 community stakeholders to, within sixty months of receipt of
12 State funds for the purpose, identify and map potential
13 important agricultural lands within its jurisdiction and make
14 recommendations to the State Land Use Commission for the
15 designation of these lands as important agricultural
16 lands. Once designated, agricultural operations on important
17 agricultural lands are eligible for a variety of State and

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1 county assistance and incentive programs including grants and
2 other funding assistance, tax incentives, favorable
3 infrastructure and permit requirements, and farm and business
4 education assistance. The legislature finds that, to date, most
5 counties have not received State funds to assist with their
6 identification and mapping duties under Act 183.

7 The purpose of this Act is to implement Act 183 in
8 accordance with the State's constitutional duty to protect
9 important agricultural lands by providing funds to the counties
10 for the identification and mapping of important agricultural
11 lands.

12 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$250,000, or so much
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018, and the
15 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
16 2018-2019, for grants-in-aid to the counties for the
17 identification and mapping of important agricultural lands
18 pursuant to section 205-47, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to be
19 allocated as follows:

- 20 (1) \$ 62,500 to the County of Hawaii;
21 (2) \$ 62,500 to the City and County of Honolulu;
22 (3) \$ 62,500 to the County of Kauai; and

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1 (4) \$ 62,500 to the County of Maui.

2 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
3 of business, economic development, and tourism for the purposes
4 of this Act.

5 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.

INTRODUCED BY: _____