

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI
AGRICULTURE AND PUBLIC TRUST
COMMITTEE

September 2, 2022

Committee
Report No. _____

Honorable Chair and Members
of the County Council
County of Maui
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii

Chair and Members:

Your Agriculture and Public Trust Committee, having met on August 16, 2022, makes reference to Bill 105 (2022) entitled “A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 2.12 AND TITLE 22, MAUI COUNTY CODE, TO ESTABLISH POLICIES RELATED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.”

Bill 105’s purpose is to establish policies related to the Department of Agriculture.

Your Committee noted that during deliberations for establishing the Department of Agriculture, the Committee expressed its commitment to providing specific goals and responsibilities for the Department by ordinance.

Your Committee also noted that Bill 105 is the result of extensive community outreach facilitated by the Community Impact Working Group.

Your Committee amended Bill 105 to include provisions supporting:

- Cultural- and language-sensitive education, outreach, and advocacy materials and programs.
- Minority-owned and low and moderate sized agricultural operations, as determined by gross cash farm income, or GCFL.

Your Committee further amended Bill 105 to make “Working as a community liaison and advocate for farmers and the agricultural sector”

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the Department of Agriculture's first priority under education, outreach, and advocacy.

The Acting Director of Agriculture expressed support for Bill 105 and said it would provide a roadmap for the development of the Department's strategic plan.

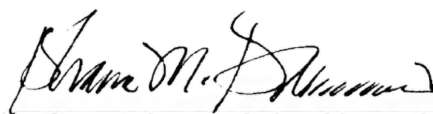
The Deputy Director of Agriculture asked about translation services for the immigrant farming community and was informed that the Department would be able to use professional services for that purpose.

Your Committee voted 7-0 to recommend passage of Bill 105, CD1 (2022) on first reading. Committee Chair Sinenci, Vice-Chair Johnson, and members King, Lee, Molina, Paltin, and Rawlins-Fernandez voted "aye."

Your Committee is in receipt of Bill 105, CD1 (2022), incorporating your Committee's revisions and nonsubstantive revisions.

Your Agriculture and Public Trust Committee RECOMMENDS that Bill 105, CD1 (2022), as revised herein and attached hereto, entitled "A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 2.12 AND TITLE 22, MAUI COUNTY CODE, TO ESTABLISH POLICIES RELATED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE," be PASSED ON FIRST READING and be ORDERED TO PRINT.

This report is submitted in accordance with Rule 8 of the Rules of the Council.



SHANE M. SINENCI, Chair

ORDINANCE NO. _____

BILL NO. 105, CD1 (2022)

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 2.12 AND TITLE 22, MAUI COUNTY CODE, TO ESTABLISH POLICIES RELATED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI:

SECTION 1. Chapter 2.12, Maui County Code, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

“2.12.145 Department of Agriculture. There is established a department of agriculture as provided by law.”

SECTION 2. Title 22, Maui County Code, is amended by renaming the title to read as follows:

“Title 22 – [Agricultural Parks] Department of Agriculture”

SECTION 3. Title 22, Maui County Code, is amended by adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

“Chapter 22.02

Department of Agriculture

Sections:

22.02.010 Purpose and administration.

22.02.020 Powers, duties, and functions; areas of need.

22.02.030 Reporting requirements.

22.02.040 Administrative rules.

22.02.010. Purpose and administration. The purpose of this chapter is to establish policies and procedures regarding the department of agriculture. The director of agriculture or the

director's authorized representative must administer and implement this chapter.

22.02.020 Powers, duties, and functions; areas of need.

To fulfill the department's powers, duties, and functions, the director will:

A. Develop agriculture infrastructure by:

1. Improving access to, and availability of: affordable land, water (storage, meters, delivery systems, and prioritization), labor, workforce housing, equipment, commercial kitchens, processing and distribution facilities, and transportation.

2. Working to increase community co-operatives, technology, and access to locally grown food for County residents, while also protecting subsistence farming.

B. Create agriculture markets and distribution networks by:

1. Developing and supporting programs to increase access to local products.

2. Working to increase marketing assistance and distribution channels on each island separately, as well as interisland.

3. Developing institutional purchasing and distribution channels, including with the state of Hawaii department of education.

4. Collaborating with local community organizations and government agencies to increase access to and availability of locally grown products, locally made agricultural-related products, and monetary assistance, such as SNAP and EBT, to increase food security and overall County sustainability.

C. Ensure adequate funding for agriculture by:

1. Securing federal, state, and private funding and developing special funds and revolving funds to go directly toward agriculture.

2. Managing the application and distribution process of agriculture-related grants to agriculture-related businesses in the County.

3. Providing grant writing assistance to agriculture-related businesses, organizations, and community projects.

D. Support agriculture research and development by:

1. Collaborating with government agencies, research institutions, community members, agricultural groups, stakeholders, and experts to gain insight and develop solutions to agriculture-related issues and obtain feedback to ensure the department continues to meet community needs.

2. Assisting other county and state departments by providing new and up-to-date information that will promote sustainable growth in the agricultural sector.

3. Collecting available market and agricultural data.

4. Creating publicly accessible databases that will allow data to be put to use by members of the community to fill gaps in the agricultural sector.

E. Provide education, outreach, and advocacy by:

1. Working as a community liaison and advocate for farmers and the agricultural sector.

2. Improving agricultural literacy by developing and supporting programs that increase farmer, consumer, market, educator, and student awareness about agriculture, regulations, and opportunities.

3. Providing educational resources and training to ensure safety of farmers and their families.

4. Supporting cultural volunteer programs and opportunities to provide hands-on assistance to the agricultural sector.

5. Providing the public with cultural- and language-sensitive materials and programs.

F. Provide policy and regulation assistance by:

1. Reviewing and providing input on regulations with consequences to the agricultural system and advocate for change, incentives, or exemptions when needed.

2. Providing assistance to the agriculture community when needed with county, state, and federal regulations and permitting processes.

3. Creating a streamlined process for all agriculture-related permits and applications.

4. Performing agricultural property inspections with knowledgeable inspectors for all County departmental applications.

G. Promote agency coordination by collaborating with the agricultural sector, developing shared goals and visions for the County, and developing strategic plans to achieve those goals. This can include both private and public agencies and stakeholders.

H. Promote workforce development by:

1. Increasing and supporting agriculture-related industries, occupational skills training, and educational opportunities with the goal of increasing the number of agricultural workers in the County.

2. Supporting agriculture-related businesses to increase opportunities for agriculture-related jobs that compensate workers with livable wages.

3. Developing pathways to increase on-site farmworker housing opportunities and affordable workforce housing for agricultural workers and their families.

I. Minimize invasive species, pests, and threats by:

1. Collaborating with federal and state agencies to develop additional time-sensitive protocols, such as pre- and post-inspections, to prevent the introduction of invasive species and additional inspections for invasive species at retail locations, airports, harbors, and via mail delivery.

2. Providing education to the agricultural sector about agricultural threats, such as climate change and pests, and ways to prevent unnecessary imports that may introduce invasive species.

3. Developing policy and legislation to prevent the introduction of invasive species, combat agricultural threats, and manage pests.

J. Promote resource regeneration and protection by:

1. Working with community organizations and county, state, and federal agencies to provide insight and feedback on projects that affect the agricultural sector.

2. Implementing and supporting programs that ensure the sustainable utilization and regeneration of major natural resources, such as land, soil, water, air, minerals, forests, fisheries, fishponds, and wild flora and fauna.

K. Assist with contracts and procurement by providing assistance to promote local food production and import substitution with a focus on local food security.

L. Address transportation issues by:

1. Collaborating with the state of Hawaii public utilities commission to minimize cost and other barriers for transportation and crops or livestock lost in transport.

2. Providing support for the agriculture community to access federal programs that reduce the cost of transportation.

3. Coordinating transportation-sharing to support the distribution of local products.

M. Minimize agricultural theft, vandalism, and liability by working with police, prosecuting attorney, and county and state authorities to address the losses from agriculture-related theft and vandalism.

N. Provide priority resource assistance to low and moderate sized agricultural operations—as defined by the prior calendar year’s annual gross cash farm income, or GCFI—with special considerations for minority-owned agricultural operations. The GCFI designations are as follows:

- Low GCFI up to \$149,999.
- Moderate GCFI between \$150,000 and \$349,999.
- Midsize GCFI between \$350,000 and \$999,999.
- Large GCFI between \$1,000,000 and \$4,999,999.
- Very large GCFI of \$5,000,000 or more.

22.02.030. Reporting requirements. A. The department will collaborate with existing efforts and agencies to collate data in the following areas for the County and report annually:

1. Labor demographics, such as number of jobs, wages, and age of workers.
2. Agricultural lands in valuation, dedication, and conservation.
3. Number of farms.
4. Size of farms.
5. Type of farms.
6. Crops grown.
7. Crop yield.
8. Value per acre.
9. Agricultural water use.
10. Number of ranches.
11. Number and type of livestock.
12. Value of crop, in wholesale and retail.
13. Poundage of donated crops and goods.
14. Community and market contribution and valuation of subsistence farms.

B. The department must collect data in the following areas for the County and report annually:

1. Amount of grants disbursed, including information on recipients, funded projects, and type of farming.
2. Agricultural park demographics, including types of crops grown and lessee information.
3. Number of commercial kitchens and their location and availability.
4. Number of processing and distribution facilities, and their location, contact information, and user information.
5. Agricultural-related infrastructure needs.
6. Number of composting operations, volume of compost produced, and waste diverted.
7. Invasive species tracking.
8. Outside funding sources and amounts received and disbursed, including information on recipients and funded projects.

9. Number of current and emerging agriculture-related industries.

C. The department must track and report annually on the following education and outreach areas:

1. Resident satisfaction with the department.
2. Agriculture-related legislative tracking and testimony at the county, state, and federal levels.
3. Tracking of food safety, market, and other agriculture-related regulations and their impacts.
4. Political action the department has taken on behalf of the agriculture community.

22.02.040 Administrative rules. The director must adopt administrative rules to implement this chapter's provisions."

SECTION 4. Section 22.04A.050, Maui County Code, is amended by amending the definition of "director" to read as follows:

"“Director” means the [economic development] director of agriculture of the County of Maui or a designated representative.”

SECTION 5. Material to be repealed is bracketed. New material is underscored. In printing this bill, the County Clerk need not include the brackets, the bracketed material, or the underscoring.

SECTION 6. This Ordinance takes effect on approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gabe Johnson', written over a horizontal line.

GABE JOHNSON