

JAN 18 2024

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FOOD SUSTAINABILITY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there is a growing
2 consensus across scientific disciplines that seafood, including
3 fish and all other animal products harvested from aquatic
4 systems, plays a crucial role in food and nutrition security.
5 The legislature also finds that the total annual value of the
6 State's nearshore coral reef-associated fisheries is estimated
7 to be between \$10,300,000 and \$16,400,000, with the majority of
8 the value being associated with non-commercial fishing, which
9 amounts to more than 7,000,000 meals per year. The legislature
10 finds however, that the wild seafood system has fallen short of
11 its full potential to enhance food and nutrition security for
12 those most in need because the traditional framing of aquatic
13 animals as a natural resource emphasizes economic development
14 and biodiversity conservation objectives, and the discussions of
15 food and nutrition security and aquatic animals have been
16 disconnected from one another.



1 The purpose of this Act is to require the state agriculture
2 functional plan to include additional agricultural economic
3 updates, including updates on seafood sustainability, that
4 expand the State's priority on food by including wild seafood as
5 a viable food source.

6 SECTION 2. (a) Pursuant to section 226-55, Hawaii Revised
7 Statutes, the department of agriculture, in coordination with
8 the office of planning and sustainable development, shall
9 prepare and periodically update the state agriculture functional
10 plan to include other agricultural economic updates, including
11 updates on seafood sustainability, that expand the State's
12 priority on food by including wild seafood as a viable food
13 source.

14 (b) As part of the updated state agriculture functional
15 plan, which shall include seafood sustainability among other
16 agricultural economic updates, the department of agriculture and
17 the office of planning and sustainable development may:

18 (1) Establish objectives, policies, and actions related to
19 seafood sustainability;



- 1 (2) Research the agricultural and economic impact that
2 wild seafood has on food self-sufficiency in the
3 State, including its influence on:
- 4 (A) Non-commercial consumption, such as community
5 sharing and fisher household consumption; and
6 (B) Exports;
- 7 (3) Collect data on the wholesale and retail sales of wild
8 seafood in the State;
- 9 (4) Classify and regulate wild seafood as a food commodity
10 in the State; and
- 11 (5) Incorporate seafood sustainability into the state
12 agriculture functional plan related to increased food
13 security and food self-sufficiency.
- 14 (c) The governor shall submit the state agriculture
15 functional plan pursuant to section 226-56, Hawaii Revised
16 Statutes, including any proposed legislation, to the legislature
17 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular
18 session of 2026.
- 19 (d) For the purposes of this section, "wild seafood" means
20 naturally born or hatchery-raised fish and shellfish harvested
21 in the wild through commercial, recreational, or subsistence



S.B. NO. 2159

1 fishing but excludes net-pen aquacultural or other farm-raised
2 fish.

3 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: *Maureen P. Farney*



S.B. NO. 2159

Report Title:

DOA; OPSD; State Agriculture Functional Plan; Seafood Sustainability; Wild Seafood

Description:

Requires the Department of Agriculture, in coordination with the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, to prepare and periodically update the State Agriculture Functional Plan to include other agricultural economic updates, including seafood sustainability, that expand the State's priority on food by including wild seafood as a viable food source. Requires the Governor to submit the plan to the Legislature prior to the Regular Session of 2026.

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