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

6       SECTION 2. Chapter 226, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
7 amended by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately  
8 designated and to read as follows:

9       "§226-       Other objectives and policies for the economy--  
10 agriculture. (a) Pursuant to section 226-55, the department of  
11 agriculture, in coordination with the office of planning and  
12 sustainable development, shall prepare and periodically update  
13 the state agriculture functional plan to include other  
14 agricultural economic updates, including updates on aquaculture,  
15 that expand the State's priority on food by including freshwater  
16 and saltwater aquatic organisms as a viable food source.

17       (b) As part of the updated state agriculture functional  
18 plan, which shall include aquaculture among other agricultural  
19 economic updates, the department of agriculture and the office  
20 of planning and sustainable development may:



- 1        (1) Establish objectives, policies, and actions related to  
2            aquaculture;
- 3        (2) Research the agricultural and economic impact that  
4            freshwater and saltwater aquatic organisms have on  
5            food self-sufficiency in the State, including its  
6            influence on:
  - 7            (A) Non-commercial consumption, such as community  
8                    sharing and fisher household consumption; and
  - 9            (B) Exports;
- 10       (3) Collect data on the wholesale and retail sales of  
11            freshwater and saltwater aquatic organisms in the  
12            State;
- 13       (4) Classify and regulate freshwater and saltwater aquatic  
14            organisms as a food commodity in the State; and
- 15       (5) Incorporate aquaculture into the state agriculture  
16            functional plan related to increased food security and  
17            food self-sufficiency.
- 18       (c) For the purposes of this section, "freshwater and  
19       saltwater aquatic organism" means naturally born or hatchery-  
20       raised fish and shellfish harvested in the wild through



1 commercial, recreational, or subsistence fishing but excludes  
2 net-pen aquacultural or other farm-raised fish."

3 SECTION 3. The governor shall submit the updated state  
4 agriculture functional plan pursuant to section 226-56, Hawaii  
5 Revised Statutes, including any proposed legislation, to the  
6 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
7 the regular session of 2026.

8 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

9 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



**Report Title:**

HDOA; OPSD; State Agriculture Functional Plan; Aquaculture

**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 aquaculture, that expand the State's priority on food by including freshwater and saltwater aquatic organisms as a viable food source. Requires the Governor to submit an updated plan to the Legislature prior to the Regular Session of 2026. (SD2)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

