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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SHELLFISH AQUACULTURE INDUSTRY.

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

**PART I**

1  
2 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State has  
3 transitioned away from plantation agriculture and diversified  
4 agriculture has become an essential component of our overall  
5 agriculture industry. Aquaculture, which reached \$28,400,000 in  
6 wholesale product value in 2005, represents one of the fastest  
7 growing sectors of diversified agriculture in the State with a  
8 future brimming with potential. The State has an opportunity to  
9 expand its burgeoning aquacultural industry by encouraging the  
10 culturing of shellfish, including clams and oysters, on land and  
11 in certain areas of the ocean.

12 However, federal regulations require certain procedures and  
13 testing before selling cultured oysters and clams locally and  
14 for export. In addition, the department of health allows the  
15 import of live shellfish for food, but not culturing of  
16 shellfish for local consumption and export. This is a missed  
17 opportunity for local shellfish growers who are growing clams



1 and oysters for seed export sales, but are not permitted to grow  
2 clams and oysters for food.

3       The purpose of this part is to promote the development of a  
4 viable, local shellfish aquaculture industry by providing funds  
5 to conduct a feasibility and cost study to determine the  
6 statutory and administrative rule changes, staffing  
7 requirements, laboratory support requirements, research  
8 requirements, and training and technical assistance needs to  
9 develop a shellfish aquaculture industry in Hawaii.

10       SECTION 2. The University of Hawaii shall conduct a  
11 feasibility and cost study to determine the statutory and  
12 administrative rule changes, staffing requirements, laboratory  
13 support requirements, research requirements, and training and  
14 technical assistance needs to develop a shellfish aquaculture  
15 industry in Hawaii.

16       SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$75,000 or so much  
18 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 to conduct  
19 a feasibility and cost study to determine the statutory and  
20 administrative rule changes, staffing requirements, laboratory  
21 support requirements, research requirements, and training and



1 technical assistance needs to develop a shellfish aquaculture  
2 industry in Hawaii.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of  
4 Hawaii for the purposes of this part.

5 **PART II**

6 SECTION 4. In recent years, the number of edible 'opihi  
7 found in Hawaii has declined. The popularity of 'opihi as a  
8 delicacy has led to overharvesting and has made 'opihi difficult  
9 to find on all islands. Current efforts to address the  
10 declining population of Hawaiian 'opihi include S.B. No. 6  
11 (2007), which, if passed, will prohibit the sale or offering for  
12 sale of 'opihi, except in certain circumstances. Furthermore, a  
13 diverse group of scientists, private business people, and  
14 community organizations are collaborating with each other to  
15 address the declining 'opihi populations and general lack of  
16 scientific information on this culturally important group of  
17 shellfish.

18 The purpose of this part is to appropriate funds for a  
19 'opihi restoration project to obtain a current baseline  
20 population of Hawaiian 'opihi through the islands so that it can  
21 more effectively assist in any future management and stocking



1 strategies. The project is planned to be a hatchery-based  
2 restocking program as this has proved to be the most viable  
3 method for enhancing the depleted natural populations of 'opihi.

4 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general  
5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$168,600 or so much  
6 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 for the  
7 University of Hawaii sea grant college program to cover  
8 salaries, rent, materials and supplies, and overhead costs of  
9 the 'opihi restoration program.

10 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of  
11 Hawaii for the purposes of this part.

12 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.



**Report Title:**

Shellfish Aquaculture

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to conduct a feasibility and cost study to determine the statutory and rule changes, staffing requirements, laboratory support requirements, research requirements, and training and technical assistance needs to develop a shellfish aquaculture industry in Hawaii. Appropriates funds for an 'opihi restoration program. (SD1)

