

JAN 19 2024

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AQUACULTURE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that mullet production
2 for fishponds and stock enhancement contributes to food
3 security, cultural preservation, and education and
4 collaboration. The legislature further finds that the division
5 of aquatic resources of the department of land and natural
6 resources received \$300,000 in 2023 for fishpond support.
7 Furthermore, the legislature finds that a long-term solution to
8 provide pua (juvenile stripe mullet) was identified as a
9 priority and as a result, the funds were awarded to Waianae high
10 school, which has an aquaculture system and expressed interest
11 in breeding mullet.

12 Moreover, the legislature notes that these funds were used
13 to pay the Oceanic Institute of Hawaii Pacific University to
14 produce pua and train two interns on how to breed mullet. The
15 mullet produced will be distributed to fishponds on Oahu.

16 In addition, the legislature finds that there is also
17 interest in using the division of aquatic resources' Anuenue



1 fisheries research center at Sand island on Oahu and Wailoa
 2 fisheries research station in Hilo, Hawaii, as space for the pua
 3 to grow prior to their release, as this is believed to increase
 4 survivorship rates. These fish would be provided to fishponds
 5 on Oahu and Hawaii island and released in public areas, such as
 6 the Wailoa estuary. The legislature further finds that other
 7 restorative aquaculture projects, including limu, moi,
 8 aholehole, and wetland plants, could also be explored.

9 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds, including
 10 for positions, equipment, and maintenance and operating costs,
 11 for mullet production for fishponds and stock enhancement.

12 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
 13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
 14 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for
 15 the following positions:

16 (1) Two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) aquatic biologist V
 17 positions, one at the division of aquatic resources'
 18 Anuenue fisheries research center on Oahu and one at
 19 Waianae high school in Waianae, Oahu;

20 (2) Two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) aquatic biologist
 21 IV positions, one at the division of aquatic



1 resources' Anuenue fisheries research center on Oahu
2 and one at the division of aquatic resources' Wailoa
3 fisheries research station in Hilo, Hawaii;

4 (3) Three full-time equivalent (3.0 FTE) fishery
5 technician V positions, one at the division of aquatic
6 resources' Anuenue fisheries research center on Oahu,
7 one at Waianae high school in Waianae, Oahu, and one
8 at the division of aquatic resources' Wailoa fisheries
9 research station in Hilo, Hawaii; and

10 (4) One full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) fishery technician
11 IV position at Waianae high school in Waianae, Oahu.

12 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
13 land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

14 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$4,500,000 or so much
16 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for:

17 (1) Shipping containers for office space and plankton
18 production;

19 (2) Tanks;

20 (3) Backup generators; and

21 (4) Hatchery equipment,



1 for the division of aquatic resources' Anuenue fisheries
2 research center on Oahu and Wailoa fisheries research station in
3 Hilo, Hawaii, and for Waianae high school in Waianae, Oahu.

4 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
5 land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

6 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$150,000 or so much
8 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for
9 maintenance and operating costs, including feed, supplies,
10 electricity, and water.

11 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
12 land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

13 SECTION 5. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of
14 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,
15 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the
16 appropriations contained in H.B. No. , will cause the state
17 general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be
18 exceeded by \$ or per cent. In addition, the
19 appropriation contained in this Act will cause the general fund
20 expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be further
21 exceeded by \$ or per cent. The combined total



1 amount of general fund appropriations contained in only these
2 two Acts will cause the state general fund expenditure ceiling
3 for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by
4 \$ or per cent. The reasons for exceeding the
5 general fund expenditure ceiling are that:

- 6 (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to
7 serve the public interest; and
8 (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs
9 addressed by this Act.

10 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

11
INTRODUCED BY: _____



S.B. NO. 2329

Report Title:

Aquaculture; Mullet Production; Fishponds and Stock Enhancement;
Appropriation; Expenditure Ceiling

Description:

Appropriates funds, including for positions, equipment, and maintenance and operating costs, for mullet production for fishponds and stock enhancement.

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