

JAN 19 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 associated with non-commercial fishing, which amounts
9 to more than 7,000,000 meals per year.

10 The legislature further finds however, that the wild
11 seafood system has fallen short of its full potential to enhance
12 food 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.

17 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require:



- 1 (1) The department of agriculture, in coordination with
2 the office of planning and sustainable development, to
3 prepare and periodically update the state agriculture
4 functional plan to include updates on seafood
5 sustainability and other agricultural economic updates
6 that expand the State's priority on food, including
7 recognizing wild seafood as a viable food source; and
8 (2) The governor to submit an updated state agriculture
9 functional plan to the legislature before the regular
10 session of 2026.

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

19 (b) In preparing and updating the state agriculture
20 functional plan pursuant to subsection (a), the department of



1 agriculture and the office of planning and sustainable
2 development may:

3 (1) Establish objectives, policies, and actions related to
4 seafood sustainability;

5 (2) Research the agricultural and economic impact that
6 wild seafood has on food self-sufficiency in the
7 State, including its influence on:

8 (A) Non-commercial consumption, such as community
9 sharing and fisher household consumption; and

10 (B) Exports;

11 (3) Collect data on the wholesale and retail sales of wild
12 seafood in the State;

13 (4) Classify and regulate wild seafood as a food commodity
14 in the State; and

15 (5) Incorporate seafood sustainability into the state
16 agriculture functional plan related to increased food
17 security and food self-sufficiency.

18 (c) The governor shall submit an updated state agriculture
19 functional plan pursuant to section 226-56, Hawaii Revised
20 Statutes, including any proposed legislation, to the legislature



1 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular
2 session of 2026.

3 (d) For purposes of this section, "wild seafood" means
4 naturally born or hatchery-raised fish and shellfish harvested
5 in the wild through commercial, recreational, or subsistence
6 fishing but excludes net-pen aquacultural or other farm-raised
7 fish.

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

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INTRODUCED BY:





S.B. NO. 2595

Report Title:

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

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 updates on seafood sustainability and other agricultural economic updates that expand the State's priority on food, including recognizing wild seafood as a viable food source. Requires the Governor to submit an updated state agriculture functional plan to the Legislature before the Regular Session of 2026.

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