



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2024**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:
S.B. NO. 2412, RELATING TO AQUACULTURE.

BEFORE THE:
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

DATE: Friday, February 2, 2024 **TIME:** 1:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 224 and Videoconference

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Kelcie K. Nagata or Bryan C. Yee, Deputy Attorneys General

Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments:

The purpose of this bill is to establish an aquaculture advisory committee within the Department of Agriculture.

We note that the bill does not contain a provision specifying whether the members of the advisory committee should serve without compensation as recommended by the Hawaii Legislative Drafting Manual (item 10 on page 71).

Accordingly, we recommend adding to the new section being added to chapter 141, Hawaii Revised Statutes, by section 1 of the bill, on page 2, beginning at line 19, a new subsection (e) to read as follows:

(e) The members of the aquaculture advisory committee shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for expenses, including travel expenses, necessary for the performance of their duties.

In the alternative, this provision could be added to subsection (b) of the new section at page 2, line 9.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DEXTER KISHIDA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

**FEBRUARY 02, 2024
1:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2412
RELATING TO AQUACULTURE**

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2412. The bill establishes the Aquaculture Advisory Committee within the Department of Agriculture; declares that the general fund expenditure ceiling is exceeded; and makes an appropriation. The Department offers comments.

The establishment of an Aquaculture Advisory Committee creates an unnecessary bureaucratic layer in the State's aquaculture development sector. Historically, the Hawaii Aquaculture Advisory Council (HAAC) was established in 1998 and was abolished in 2000. The reasoning for HAAC abolishment was the establishment of an effective statewide industry organization, the Hawaii Aquaculture Association (now Hawaii Aquaculture and Aquaponics Association). The association provides the department industry and technical perspective on the sector.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 1, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB 2412
RELATING TO AQUACULTURE

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
1:00 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, and Members of the Committees:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate, and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports SB 2412, which establishes the Aquaculture Advisory Committee within the Department of Agriculture.

Hawai'i's aquaculture industry farm gate value is \$80,000,000, the second-highest contribution to the economy in diversified agriculture. Hawai'i's favorable climate and geography allow for inherent advantages benefitting aquaculture production.

The Legislature acknowledged the importance of Hawai'i's aquaculture industry by revitalizing the Aquaculture Development Program through Act 63, SLH 2019. However, more investment and research into the aquaculture industry is needed, including investment and research into different types of aquaculture, aquaculture system optimization, and economic implications of various methods of aquaculture production.

An Aquaculture industry-led advisory committee can help strengthen and grow Hawai'i's aquaculture industry, bringing in investment, producing high-quality seafood, and increasing the State's economic resilience and food sustainability.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.