
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO RESTORATIVE AQUACULTURE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that a 2021 study by The
2 Nature Conservancy establishes that "[r]estorative aquaculture
3 occurs when commercial or subsistence aquaculture provides
4 direct ecological benefits to the environment, with the
5 potential to generate net-positive environmental outcomes." The
6 legislature further finds that the term "restorative
7 aquaculture" has been applied to the cultivation of seaweeds and
8 bivalve species as both can benefit the ecosystem while
9 potentially producing commercially valuable crops.

10 However, the question remains whether restorative
11 aquaculture activities, such as the cultivation of seaweed and
12 oysters, are feasible in the State. Therefore, a feasibility
13 study on restorative aquaculture is a crucial step to assess the
14 potential benefits, risks, and impacts of restorative
15 aquaculture activities in the State and to provide valuable
16 information for decision-makers and stakeholders to make



1 informed choices about whether to proceed with a restorative
2 aquaculture initiative and how best to design and implement it.

3 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

4 (1) Require the department of agriculture's aquaculture
5 development program to conduct a feasibility study to
6 identify potential sites in the State for restorative
7 aquaculture activities; and

8 (2) Make an appropriation.

9 SECTION 2. (a) The department of agriculture's
10 aquaculture development program shall conduct a feasibility
11 study to identify potential sites in the State for restorative
12 aquaculture activities.

13 (b) The study shall include but not be limited to the
14 following considerations:

15 (1) Identification of locations that are technically
16 feasible to cultivate indigenous seaweed or bivalve
17 species based on:

18 (A) The physical oceanographic conditions with
19 respect to the equipment, cultivated species, and
20 operator requirements;



1 (B) The environmental conditions that would be
2 required for suitable growth of the cultivated
3 species; and

4 (C) The marine spatial planning constraints with
5 respect to existing marine sector infrastructure
6 and activity, including the aggregation and
7 integration of existing marine special planning
8 data sets;

9 (2) Evaluation of legal issues related to ownership,
10 carbon policy, and transfer of carbon rights,
11 including the negotiation of any necessary legal
12 agreements to register and sell offsets or credits and
13 the legal authority of landowners to participate in
14 market projects; and

15 (3) Exploration of the scope for beneficial interactions
16 and relationships with local communities and fishing
17 interests, including community-supported reforestation
18 of near-shore areas and traditional fishpond sites of
19 depleted seaweed and bivalve populations.

20 (c) The department of agriculture shall submit a report of
21 its findings and recommendations, including any proposed



1 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
2 to the convening of the regular session of 2025.

3 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$300,000 or so much
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for the
6 department of agriculture's aquaculture development program to
7 conduct a feasibility study to identify potential sites in the
8 State for restorative aquaculture activities.

9 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
10 agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

11 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

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INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 19 2024



H.B. NO. 2001

Report Title:

DOA; Aquaculture Development Program; Restorative Aquaculture; Feasibility Study; Report to the Legislature; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the Department of Agriculture's Aquaculture Development Program to conduct a feasibility study to identify potential sites in the State for restorative aquaculture activities. Makes an appropriation.

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