

---

---

# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO SUPPORT EFFORTS TO  
IMPROVE THE AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM STRATEGIC PLAN.

1           WHEREAS, Hawaii's aquaculture industry is well-established,  
2 and the islands offer a competitive edge over the mainland  
3 United States and other parts of the world in a number of ways,  
4 including:

- 5
- 6           (1) A favorable climate with critical biosecurity through  
7 natural geographical isolation;
- 8
- 9           (2) Access to varied water temperatures, from warmer  
10 tropical water to pristine, deep, cold water, which  
11 provides the ability to farm a wide variety of  
12 species;
- 13
- 14           (3) Restorative aquaculture at Native Hawaiian fishponds,  
15 which form a unique part of Hawaii's culture and  
16 identity, is already ongoing and supported by the  
17 community at large; and
- 18
- 19           (4) Hawaii's current aquaculture research environment,  
20 which provides an excellent infrastructure to test and  
21 validate new aquaculture concepts; and
- 22

23           WHEREAS, to promote aquaculture in Hawaii, the Aquaculture  
24 Development Program of the Department of Agriculture devised a  
25 ten-year strategic plan, which aims to achieve the dual goals of  
26 increasing aquaculture food production and supporting  
27 initiatives for restorative aquaculture; and

28

29           WHEREAS, the strategic plan also seeks to create  
30 socioeconomic advantages for the State that benefit its people,  
31 economy, and environment; and



1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37

WHEREAS, although the aquaculture sector in Hawaii is already well-established, it needs to attract larger numbers of industry players, entrepreneurs, and investors to stimulate greater commercial activity and generate increased opportunities to fulfil its ultimate potential; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture commissioned Hatch Innovation Services to investigate the state of aquaculture in Hawaii and make recommendations on how to improve the Aquaculture Development Program's existing strategic plan; and

WHEREAS, the objective of Hatch Innovation Services' report, which was released in February 2024, was to offer recommendations for key areas on which state--as well as local and federal--agencies can focus to drive the aquaculture sector forward and develop a robust, sustainable food-production system that will contribute meaningfully to the community, economy, and environment; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Agriculture is urged to support efforts to improve the Aquaculture Development Program strategic plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture is urged to adopt the recommendations made by Hatch Innovation Services in its February 2024 report regarding the strategic plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture.

OFFERED BY:

*Amy Perusso*

MAR 05 2024

