
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, which
3 includes fish and all other animal products harvested from
4 aquatic systems, plays a crucial role in food and nutrition
5 security. The legislature also finds that the total annual
6 value of the State's nearshore coral reef-associated fisheries
7 is estimated to be between \$10,300,000 and \$16,400,000, with the
8 majority of the value being associated with non-commercial
9 fishing, which amounts to more than seven million meals per
10 year. The legislature finds, however, that the wild seafood
11 system has fallen short of its full potential to enhance food
12 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 The purpose of this Act is to:



1 (1) Require the state agriculture functional plan to
 2 include additional agricultural economic updates,
 3 including updates on aquaculture, that expand the
 4 State's priority on food by including freshwater and
 5 saltwater aquatic organisms as viable food sources;
 6 and

7 (2) Require the department of agriculture and office of
 8 planning and sustainable development to produce a
 9 report on freshwater and saltwater aquatic organisms
 10 prior to updating the state agriculture functional
 11 plan.

12 SECTION 2. Chapter 226, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
 13 amended by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately
 14 designated and to read as follows:

15 "§226- Other objectives and policies for the economy--
 16 agriculture. (a) Pursuant to section 226-55, the department of
 17 agriculture, in coordination with the office of planning and
 18 sustainable development, shall prepare and periodically update
 19 the state agriculture functional plan to include other
 20 agricultural economic updates, including updates on aquaculture,



1 that expand the State's priority on food by including freshwater
2 and saltwater aquatic organisms as a viable food source.

3 (b) Prior to each update of the state agriculture
4 functional plan, the department of agriculture and the office of
5 planning and sustainable development shall produce a report on
6 freshwater and saltwater aquatic organisms that may include the
7 following elements:

- 8 (1) Objectives, policies, and actions related to
9 aquaculture;
- 10 (2) Research on the agricultural and economic impact that
11 freshwater and saltwater aquatic organisms have on
12 food self-sufficiency in the State, including their
13 impact on:
 - 14 (A) Non-commercial consumption, such as community
15 sharing and fisher household consumption; and
 - 16 (B) Exports;
- 17 (3) Data on the wholesale and retail sales of freshwater
18 and saltwater aquatic organisms in the State;
- 19 (4) Classification and regulation of freshwater and
20 saltwater aquatic organisms as a food commodity in the
21 State;



1 (5) Incorporation of aquaculture into the state
2 agriculture functional plan related to increased food
3 security and food self-sufficiency; and

4 (6) Research and monitoring, performed in collaboration
5 with Native Hawaiian organizations, including but not
6 limited to the office of Hawaiian affairs, of the
7 impact that the expansion of aquacultural markets may
8 have on the State's ocean ecosystems as well as
9 Hawaii's traditional and customary fishing practices.

10 (c) For the purposes of this section, "freshwater and
11 saltwater aquatic organism" means naturally born or hatchery-
12 raised fish and shellfish harvested in the wild through
13 commercial, recreational, or subsistence fishing but excludes
14 net-pen aquacultural or other farm-raised fish."

15 SECTION 3. The department of agriculture shall submit the
16 first report on freshwater and saltwater aquatic organisms
17 required by section 2 of this Act, including any proposed
18 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
19 to the convening of the regular session of 2026.

20 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.



1 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



Report Title:

HDOA; OPSD; State Agriculture Functional Plan; Aquaculture Report

Description:

Requires the Department of Agriculture, in coordination with the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, to prepare a report on freshwater and saltwater aquatic organisms regarding their agricultural and economic impact on the State's food self-sufficiency. Requires the Governor to submit a report on the impacts of freshwater and saltwater aquatic organisms to the Legislature prior to the Regular Session of 2026. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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