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# 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 being associated with non-commercial fishing, which  
9 amounts to more than 7,000,000 meals per year. The legislature  
10 finds however, that the wild seafood system has fallen short of  
11 its full potential to enhance food and nutrition security for  
12 those most in need because the traditional framing of aquatic  
13 animals as a natural resource emphasizes economic development  
14 and biodiversity conservation objectives, and the discussions of  
15 food and nutrition security and aquatic animals have been  
16 disconnected from one another.



1           The purpose of this Act is to require the state agriculture  
2 functional plan to include additional agricultural economic  
3 updates, including updates on aquaculture, that expand the  
4 State's priority on food by including freshwater and saltwater  
5 aquatic organisms as a viable food source.

6           SECTION 2. (a) Pursuant to section 226-55, Hawaii Revised  
7 Statutes, the department of agriculture, in coordination with  
8 the office of planning and sustainable development, shall  
9 prepare and periodically update the state agriculture functional  
10 plan to include other agricultural economic updates, including  
11 updates on aquaculture, that expand the State's priority on food  
12 by including freshwater and saltwater aquatic organisms as a  
13 viable food source.

14           (b) As part of the updated state agriculture functional  
15 plan, which shall include aquaculture among other agricultural  
16 economic updates, the department of agriculture and the office  
17 of planning and sustainable development may:

- 18           (1) Establish objectives, policies, and actions related to  
19               aquaculture;
- 20           (2) Research the agricultural and economic impact that  
21               freshwater and saltwater aquatic organisms have on



- 1 food self-sufficiency in the State, including its  
2 influence on:
- 3 (A) Non-commercial consumption, such as community  
4 sharing and fisher household consumption; and
  - 5 (B) Exports;
- 6 (3) Collect data on the wholesale and retail sales of  
7 freshwater and saltwater aquatic organisms in the  
8 State;
- 9 (4) Classify and regulate freshwater and saltwater aquatic  
10 organisms as a food commodity in the State; and
- 11 (5) Incorporate aquaculture into the state agriculture  
12 functional plan related to increased food security and  
13 food self-sufficiency.
- 14 (c) The governor shall submit the updated state  
15 agriculture functional plan pursuant to section 226-56, Hawaii  
16 Revised Statutes, including any proposed legislation, to the  
17 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
18 the regular session of 2026.
- 19 (d) For the purposes of this section, "freshwater and  
20 saltwater aquatic organism" means naturally born or hatchery-  
21 raised fish and shellfish harvested in the wild through



1 commercial, recreational, or subsistence fishing but excludes  
2 net-pen aquacultural or other farm-raised fish.

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



**Report Title:**

DOA; OPSD; State Agriculture Functional Plan; Aquaculture

**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 other agricultural economic updates, including aquaculture, that expand the State's priority on food by including freshwater and saltwater aquatic organisms as a viable food source. Requires the Governor to submit the updated plan to the Legislature prior to the Regular Session of 2026. (SD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

