
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AQUACULTURE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that mullet production
2 for fishponds and stock enhancement contributes to food
3 security, cultural preservation, and education and
4 collaboration. The legislature further finds that the division
5 of aquatic resources of the department of land and natural
6 resources received \$300,000 in 2023 for fishpond support.
7 Furthermore, the legislature finds that a long-term solution to
8 provide pua (juvenile stripe mullet) was identified as a
9 priority and as a result, the funds were awarded to Waianae high
10 school, which has an aquaculture system and expressed interest
11 in breeding mullet.

12 Moreover, the legislature notes that these funds were used
13 to pay the Oceanic Institute of Hawaii Pacific University to
14 produce pua and train two interns on how to breed mullet. The
15 mullet produced will be distributed to fishponds on Oahu.

16 In addition, the legislature finds that there is also
17 interest in using the division of aquatic resources' Anuenue



1 fisheries research center at Sand Island on Oahu and Wailoa
2 fisheries research station in Hilo, Hawaii, as space for the pua
3 to grow prior to their release, as this is believed to increase
4 survivorship rates. These fish would be provided to fishponds
5 on Oahu and Hawaii island and released in public areas, such as
6 the Wailoa estuary. The legislature further finds that other
7 restorative aquaculture projects, including limu, moi,
8 aholehole, and wetland plants, could also be explored.

9 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate
10 funds for mullet production for fishponds and stock enhancement,
11 including for positions, equipment, and maintenance and
12 operating costs.

13 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
15 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for
16 the following positions:

17 (1) Two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) aquatic biologist V
18 positions, one at the division of aquatic resources'
19 Anuenuue fisheries research center on Oahu and one at
20 Waianae high school in Waianae, Oahu;



1 (2) Two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) aquatic biologist
 2 IV positions, one at the division of aquatic
 3 resources' Anuenue fisheries research center on Oahu
 4 and one at the division of aquatic resources' Wailoa
 5 fisheries research station in Hilo, Hawaii;

6 (3) Three full-time equivalent (3.0 FTE) fishery
 7 technician V positions, one at the division of aquatic
 8 resources' Anuenue fisheries research center on Oahu,
 9 one at Waianae high school in Waianae, Oahu, and one
 10 at the division of aquatic resources' Wailoa fisheries
 11 research station in Hilo, Hawaii; and

12 (4) One full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) fishery technician
 13 IV position at Waianae high school in Waianae, Oahu.

14 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
 15 land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

16 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
 17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
 18 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for:

- 19 (1) Shipping containers for office space and plankton
 20 production;
- 21 (2) Tanks;



1 (3) Backup generators; and
 2 (4) Hatchery equipment,
 3 for the division of aquatic resources' Anuenue fisheries
 4 research center on Oahu and Wailoa fisheries research station in
 5 Hilo, Hawaii, and for Waianae high school in Waianae, Oahu.

6 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
 7 land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

8 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
 9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
 10 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for
 11 maintenance and operating costs, including feed, supplies,
 12 electricity, and water.

13 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
 14 land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

15 SECTION 5. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of
 16 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,
 17 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the
 18 appropriations contained in H.B. No. , will cause the state
 19 general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be
 20 exceeded by \$ or per cent. In addition, the
 21 appropriation contained in this Act will cause the general fund



1 expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be further
2 exceeded by \$ or per cent. The combined total
3 amount of general fund appropriations contained in only these
4 two Acts will cause the state general fund expenditure ceiling
5 for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by
6 \$ or per cent. The reasons for exceeding the
7 general fund expenditure ceiling are that:

- 8 (1) The appropriations made in this Act are necessary to
9 serve the public interest; and
- 10 (2) The appropriations made in this Act meet the needs
11 addressed by this Act.

12 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Aquaculture; Mullet Production; Fishponds and Stock Enhancement;
Appropriations; General Fund Expenditure Ceiling Exceeded

Description:

Appropriates moneys for mullet production for fishponds and stock enhancement, including for new positions, equipment, maintenance, and operating costs. Declares that the appropriations exceed the state general fund expenditure ceiling for 2024-2025. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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