
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AQUACULTURE.

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

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 141, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to part IV to be appropriately
3 designated and to read as follows:

4 "§141- Aquatic livestock import assessment and approval
5 process; rules. The division of animal industry may adopt,
6 amend, and repeal rules not inconsistent with law to develop an
7 assessment and approval process to import and move aquatic
8 livestock in the State. This process shall:

- 9 (1) Be based on the framework maintained by the department
10 pursuant to this chapter and chapter 142;
11 (2) Include pre-arrival disease testing requirements,
12 entry inspection, and post-arrival inspection; and
13 (3) Require quarantine or depopulation of any aquatic
14 animals as necessary."

15 SECTION 2. Section 141-51, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
16 amended by adding three new definitions to be appropriately
17 inserted and to read as follows:



1 "Aquatic livestock" means various species of domestic and
2 non-domestic fish, crustaceans, and mollusks that are propagated
3 and raised for food, restorative activities, or similar
4 commercial purposes.

5 "Biocontainment" means the methods, procedures, facility
6 features, and containment or safety equipment for infectious
7 materials and animals in the aquatic livestock environment where
8 these materials and animals are potentially handled or
9 maintained. "Biocontainment" includes preventing the release of
10 infectious animal species and associated pathogens into the
11 environment.

12 "Biological aquatic risk" means the combination of the
13 consequences of an event and the associated likelihood of its
14 occurrence, where biological material is the source of harm,
15 whether from an escaped aquatic livestock species or associated
16 pathogens or disease."

17 SECTION 3. Section 141-52, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
18 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

19 "(a) There is established within the department an
20 aquaculture program that shall:



- 1 (1) Monitor actions taken by industry and by federal,
- 2 state, county, and private agencies in activities
- 3 relating to aquaculture, and promote and support
- 4 worthwhile aquaculture activities;
- 5 (2) Serve as an information clearinghouse for aquaculture
- 6 activities;
- 7 (3) Coordinate development projects to investigate and
- 8 solve biological and technical problems involved in
- 9 raising selected species with commercial potential;
- 10 (4) Actively seek federal funding for aquaculture
- 11 activities;
- 12 (5) Undertake activities required to develop and expand
- 13 the aquaculture industry[~~;~~and], which shall include:
- 14 (A) Developing a biological aquatic risk-based
- 15 framework for an assessment and approval process
- 16 for aquatic livestock that categorizes aquatic
- 17 livestock species based on the probability and
- 18 consequence of the establishment of a feral
- 19 population under the direction and oversight of
- 20 the state aquaculture veterinarian; and



1 (B) Developing biocontainment standards that
 2 establish physical and operational requirements;
 3 and

4 (6) Perform other functions and activities that may be
 5 assigned by law."

6 SECTION 4. Section 161-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
 7 amended to read as follows:

8 "~~§~~**161-6** **Division of animal industry.** The division
 9 of animal industry of the department of agriculture shall
 10 administer this chapter subject to the supervision of the board.
 11 The board may delegate any of its powers under this chapter,
 12 except the power to make rules and regulations~~[-]~~ other than
 13 rules pursuant to section 141- , or may direct any of its
 14 duties to be performed by any appropriate agents, officers, or
 15 employees of the board.

16 The board may employ on a full or part-time basis
 17 veterinarians and poultry inspectors, subject to chapter 76, to
 18 carry out a uniform inspection system of poultry or poultry
 19 products throughout the State. All poultry inspectors shall be
 20 under the supervision and control of a veterinarian employed by
 21 the board."



1 SECTION 5. The division of animal industry shall develop a
2 biological aquatic risk-based framework for the assessment and
3 approval process to import and move aquatic livestock in the
4 State. In developing the framework, the division of animal
5 industry shall consider:

- 6 (1) Relevant standards established by the United States
7 Department of Agriculture;
- 8 (2) Current aquatic livestock policies and development
9 issues;
- 10 (3) Best practices of the aquaculture industry; and
- 11 (4) The protection of indigenous species as defined in
12 section 195D-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

13 Furthermore, the framework shall provide that each aquatic
14 animal import permit valid on the effective date of this Act and
15 that were vetted in public hearing and approved by the plant and
16 animal committee and the board of agriculture shall be carried
17 over to the division of animal industry and remain in force.

18 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
20 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and
21 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal



1 year 2026-2027 for the division of animal industry to develop a
2 biological aquatic risk-based framework pursuant to the
3 requirements of this Act.

4 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
5 of agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

6 SECTION 7. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
7 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

8 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



Report Title:

DOA; Division of Animal Industry; Aquaculture Program; Import Assessment; Biological Aquatic Risk-Based Framework; Biocontainment Standards; Aquatic Livestock; Appropriation

Description:

Authorizes the Division of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture to adopt, amend, and repeal rules to develop an assessment and approval process to import and move aquatic livestock in the State. Requires the Aquaculture Program to develop a risk-based framework and biocontainment standards for the aquatic livestock assessment and approval process. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD2)

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

