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# 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; 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. (a) The division of animal industry shall  
2 develop a biological aquatic risk-based framework for the  
3 assessment and approval process to import and move aquatic  
4 livestock in the State. In developing the framework, the  
5 division of animal 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 (b) For the purposes of this section, "biological aquatic  
14 risk" has the same meaning as in section 141-51, Hawaii Revised  
15 Statutes.

16 SECTION 6. 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 2025-2026 and  
19 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
20 year 2026-2027 for the division of animal industry to develop a



1 biological aquatic risk-based framework pursuant to the  
2 requirements of this Act.

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

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 Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  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

7 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 biological aquatic risk-based framework and biocontainment standards for the aquatic livestock assessment and approval process. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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

