STAND. COM. REP. NO. **1221**

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 1 4 , 2025

RE: S.B. No. 177
S.D. 1
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems, to which was referred S.B. No. 177, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AQUACULTURE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

(1) Authorize 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; and

(2) Require and appropriate funds for the Division of Animal Industry to develop a biological aquatic risk-based framework and biocontainment standards for the aquatic livestock assessment and approval process.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Agriculture; Agribusiness Development Corporation; Department of Research and Development of the County of Hawai'i; Hawai'i Farm Bureau; Hawai'i Food+ Policy; Taylor Shellfish Company; and one individual. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from Animal Rights Hawai'i.

2025-2562 SB177 HD1 HSCR HMSO

Your Committee finds that Hawaii's aquaculture industry is a vital component of the State's diversified agricultural economy, contributing to local food production and economic sustainability. However, Hawaii's unique and biodiverse marine ecosystems are highly vulnerable to external threats, including the introduction of non-native aquatic species that may disrupt native habitats and local fisheries. This measure strengthens environmental protections by authorizing the development of a comprehensive assessment and approval process for aquaculture operations, ensuring sustainability, biosecurity, and responsible growth in the industry while safeguarding Hawaii's natural resources.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

(1) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and

(2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

Your Committee respectfully requests your Committee on Finance, should it deliberate on this measure, to consider an appropriation amount of $1,000,000 for the Animal Industry Division to develop the biological aquatic risk-based framework.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 177, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 177, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems,

KIRSTIN KAHALOA, Chair

Record of Votes of the Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

Bill/Resolution No.: SB 177, SD 1	Committee Referral: AGR, CPC, FIN	Date: 3/12/25

☐ The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.

The recommendation is to: ☐ Pass, unamended (as is) ☒ Pass, with amendments (HD) ☐ Hold
☐ Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)

AGR Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. KAHALOA, Kirstin (C)	X			
2. KUSCH, Matthias (VC)	X			
3. LOWEN, Nicole E.	X			
4. PERRUSO, Amy A.	X			
5. QUINLAN, Sean	X			
6. WARD, Gene				X
TOTAL (6)	5			1

The recommendation is: ☒ Adopted ☐ Not Adopted
If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation.
(committee acronym(s))

Vice Chair's or designee's signature: _____

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