

JAN 17 2025

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 octopus farming
2 poses significant risks for disease transmission to marine
3 environments. Farmed octopuses frequently carry multiple
4 pathogens, such as coccidial parasites, ichthyobodo protozoa,
5 vibrio bacterial infections, and dicyemid mesozoans. All of
6 these pathogens can spread to wild marine environments. For
7 example, coccidial parasites can spread from farmed octopus to
8 crabs, which can then spread to wild octopus populations and
9 other marine animals, creating a cycle of reinfection and
10 amplification in the ecosystem. The legislature further finds
11 that this spread could have destabilizing effects on the food
12 web and commercial fishing industries.

13 The legislature also finds that the practice of octopus
14 farming has raised ethical concerns due to the advanced
15 cognitive abilities exhibited by these animals. The legislature
16 additionally finds that octopus farming practices and
17 conditions, including inadequate living conditions and



1 confinement, may subject octopuses to stress, compromise their
2 well-being, and lead to adverse behavioral changes. The absence
3 of guidelines in octopus farming poses risks of exploitation and
4 potential harm to the welfare of these intelligent marine
5 creatures.

6 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to prohibit the
7 farming of certain non-wild-caught octopuses for human
8 consumption.

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

12 "§141- Octopus aquaculture; prohibited. (a) No person
13 shall engage in any aquaculture activities in the State that
14 include the propagation, cultivation, maintenance, and
15 harvesting of any species of octopus for the purpose of human
16 consumption.

17 (b) As used in this section:

18 "Aquaculture activities" includes the use of land-based
19 recirculating aquaculture systems.



1 "Octopus" does not include wild-caught octopuses or
2 octopuses propagated, cultivated, maintained, or harvested only
3 for research purposes."

4 SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
5 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
6 begun before its effective date.

7 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

8 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

9
INTRODUCED BY:

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S.B. NO. 1159

Report Title:

Octopus Aquaculture; Prohibition

Description:

Prohibits certain octopus aquaculture.

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