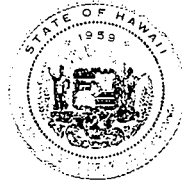


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



GOV. MSG. NO. 1267

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

June 26, 2026

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate,
and Members of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, and Members of the
House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha President Kouchi, Speaker Nakamura, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on June 26, 2026, the following bill was signed into law:

S.B. NO. 177, S.D. 1, H.D. 1,
C.D. 1

RELATING TO AQUACULTURE.
ACT 165

Mahalo,

Josh Green, M.D.
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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 evaluation and
5 authorization process; rules. The division of animal industry
6 may adopt, amend, and repeal rules consistent with applicable
7 law, to develop a science-based evaluation and authorization
8 process to import and transport aquatic livestock within the
9 State. This process shall:

- 10 (1) Be based on the biological aquatic risk-based
11 framework developed and maintained by the department
12 pursuant to this chapter and chapter 142;
- 13 (2) Include mandatory pre-arrival disease testing, entry
14 point inspection, and post-arrival monitoring and
15 inspection; and



1 (3) Require mandatory quarantine, remediation, or
2 depopulation of any aquatic animals determined to pose
3 a biological aquatic risk."

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

7 "Aquatic livestock" means species of domesticated or non-
8 native fish, crustaceans, and mollusks that are propagated and
9 raised for food or similar human food production, ecological
10 restoration, or similar commercial purposes.

11 "Biocontainment" means the operational methods, procedures,
12 physical facility features, and containment or safety equipment
13 or the designs thereof, used for managing infectious or
14 potentially hazardous materials and animals in an aquatic
15 livestock facility or environment in which these materials and
16 animals are potentially handled or maintained. "Biocontainment"
17 includes measures to prevent the release of infectious animal
18 species and associated pathogens into the natural environment.

19 "Biological aquatic risk" means the combination of the
20 consequences of an event, the probability of an adverse
21 biological event, and the magnitude of its potential



1 consequences, where biological material constitutes the source
2 of harm, whether from an escaped aquatic livestock species or
3 associated pathogens or disease."

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

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

- 8 (1) Monitor actions taken by industry and by federal,
9 state, county, and private agencies in activities
10 relating to aquaculture, and promote and support
11 worthwhile aquaculture activities;
- 12 (2) Serve as an information clearinghouse for aquaculture
13 activities;
- 14 (3) Coordinate development projects to investigate and
15 solve biological and technical problems involved in
16 raising selected species with commercial potential;
- 17 (4) Actively seek federal funding for aquaculture
18 activities;
- 19 (5) Undertake activities required to develop and expand
20 the aquaculture industry~~[and]~~, which shall include:



1 (A) Developing a biological aquatic risk-based
2 framework for the evaluation and authorization
3 process for aquatic livestock that categorizes
4 aquatic livestock species based on the
5 probability and consequence of the establishment
6 of a self-sustaining feral or invasive
7 population; and

8 (B) Developing biocontainment standards that
9 establish minimum physical design and operational
10 performance requirements for aquatic livestock
11 facilities; and

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

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

16 "**§161-6 Division of animal industry.** The division of
17 animal industry of the department of agriculture and biosecurity
18 shall administer this chapter subject to the supervision of the
19 board. The board may delegate any of its powers under this
20 chapter, except the power to make rules and regulations[7] other
21 than rules pursuant to section 141- , or may direct any of its



1 duties to be performed by any appropriate agents, officers, or
2 employees of the board.

3 The board may employ on a full or part-time basis
4 veterinarians and poultry inspectors, subject to chapter 76, to
5 carry out a uniform inspection system of poultry or poultry
6 products throughout the State. All poultry inspectors shall be
7 under the supervision and control of a veterinarian employed by
8 the board."

9 SECTION 5. (a) The division of animal industry shall
10 develop a biological aquatic risk-based framework for the
11 evaluation and authorization process to import and transport
12 aquatic livestock within the State. In developing the
13 framework, the division of animal industry shall consider:

- 14 (1) Relevant standards promulgated or recognized by the
15 United States Department of Agriculture;
- 16 (2) Current aquatic livestock import policies, disease
17 risks, and industry development issues;
- 18 (3) Best practices of the aquaculture industry, including
19 internationally recognized biosecurity and disease
20 management protocols; and



1 (4) The protection of indigenous species as defined in
2 section 195D-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and their
3 habitats.

4 (b) For the purposes of this section, "biological aquatic
5 risk" has the same meaning as defined in section 141-51, Hawaii
6 Revised Statutes.

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

9 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.



S.B. NO. 177
S.D. 1
H.D. 1
C.D. 1

APPROVED this 26th day of June , 2026

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John', written in a cursive style.


GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI'I

Date: May 6, 2026
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Final Reading in the Senate of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2026.


President of the Senate


Clerk of the Senate

SB No. 177, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: May 6, 2026
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026.



Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker
House of Representatives



Brian L. Takeshita
Chief Clerk
House of Representatives