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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 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.



**Report Title:**

DAB; Division of Animal Industry; Aquaculture Program; Import Evaluation; Biological Aquatic Risk-Based Framework; Biocontainment Standards; Aquatic Livestock

**Description:**

Authorizes the Division of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to adopt, amend, and repeal rules to develop an evaluation and authorization process to import and transport aquatic livestock in the State. Requires the Aquaculture Program to develop a biological aquatic risk-based framework and biocontainment standards for the aquatic livestock evaluation and authorization process. (CD1)

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

