THE SENATE
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2026
STATE OF HAWAII

S.B. NO. 2350 S.D. 1

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

SECTION 1. All rights, powers, functions, and duties of the aquaculture and livestock support services branch of the department of agriculture and biosecurity are transferred to the agribusiness development corporation.

All officers and employees whose functions are transferred by this Act shall be transferred with their functions and shall continue to perform their regular duties upon their transfer, subject to the state personnel laws and this Act.

No officer or employee of the State having tenure shall suffer any loss of salary, seniority, prior service credit, vacation, sick leave, or other employee benefit or privilege as a consequence of this Act, and such officer or employee may be transferred or appointed to a civil service position without the necessity of examination; provided that the officer or employee possesses the minimum qualifications for the position to which transferred or appointed; and provided that subsequent changes

in status may be made pursuant to applicable civil service and compensation laws.

An officer or employee of the State who does not have tenure and who may be transferred or appointed to a civil service position as a consequence of this Act shall become a civil service employee without the loss of salary, seniority, prior service credit, vacation, sick leave, or other employee benefits or privileges and without the necessity of examination; provided that such officer or employee possesses the minimum qualifications for the position to which transferred or appointed.

If an office or position held by an officer or employee having tenure is abolished, the officer or employee shall not thereby be separated from public employment, but shall remain in the employment of the State with the same pay and classification and shall be transferred to some other office or position for which the officer or employee is eligible under the personnel laws of the State as determined by the head of the department or the governor.

SECTION 2. All rights, powers, functions, and duties of the agricultural development division of the department of

agriculture and biosecurity are transferred to the agribusiness development corporation.

All officers and employees whose functions are transferred by this Act shall be transferred with their functions and shall continue to perform their regular duties upon their transfer, subject to the state personnel laws and this Act.

No officer or employee of the State having tenure shall suffer any loss of salary, seniority, prior service credit, vacation, sick leave, or other employee benefit or privilege as a consequence of this Act, and such officer or employee may be transferred or appointed to a civil service position without the necessity of examination; provided that the officer or employee possesses the minimum qualifications for the position to which transferred or appointed; and provided that subsequent changes in status may be made pursuant to applicable civil service and compensation laws.

An officer or employee of the State who does not have tenure and who may be transferred or appointed to a civil service position as a consequence of this Act shall become a civil service employee without the loss of salary, seniority, prior service credit, vacation, sick leave, or other employee

benefits or privileges and without the necessity of examination; provided that such officer or employee possesses the minimum qualifications for the position to which transferred or appointed.

If an office or position held by an officer or employee having tenure is abolished, the officer or employee shall not thereby be separated from public employment, but shall remain in the employment of the State with the same pay and classification and shall be transferred to some other office or position for which the officer or employee is eligible under the personnel laws of the State as determined by the head of the department or the governor.

SECTION 3. All appropriations, records, equipment, machines, files, supplies, contracts, books, papers, documents, maps, and other personal property heretofore made, used, acquired, or held by the department of agriculture and biosecurity relating to the functions transferred to the agribusiness development corporation shall be transferred with the functions to which they relate.

SECTION 4. All rules, policies, procedures, guidelines, and other material adopted or developed by the department of

agriculture and biosecurity to implement provisions of the Hawaii Revised Statutes that are reenacted or made applicable to the agribusiness development corporation by this Act shall remain in full force and effect until amended or repealed by the agribusiness development corporation pursuant to chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

In the interim, every reference to the department of agriculture and biosecurity in those rules, policies, procedures, guidelines, and other material is amended to refer to the agribusiness development corporation, as appropriate.

SECTION 5. All deeds, leases, contracts, loans, agreements, permits, or other documents executed or entered into by or on behalf of the department of agriculture and biosecurity, pursuant to the provisions of the Hawaii Revised Statutes, that are reenacted or made applicable to the agribusiness development corporation by this Act shall remain in full force and effect. Upon the effective date of this Act, every reference to the department of agriculture and biosecurity or the chairperson of the board agriculture and biosecurity therein shall be construed as a reference to the agribusiness

development corporation or the executive director of the agribusiness development corporation, as appropriate.

SECTION 6. Notwithstanding any provision of this Act to the contrary, all regulatory functions and authority related to animal health, biosecurity enforcement, inspections, and permitting compliance under the jurisdiction of the aquaculture and livestock support services branch and agricultural development division of the department of agriculture and biosecurity shall remain with the department of agriculture and biosecurity and shall not be transferred to the agribusiness development corporation pursuant to this Act.

SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.

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Report Title:
DAB; ADC; Aquaculture and Livestock Support Services Branch; Agricultural Development Division; Transfer

Description:
Transfers oversight of the Aquaculture and Livestock Support Services Branch of the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to the Agribusiness Development Corporation. Transfers the Agricultural Development Division of DAB to the ADC. Requires that certain regulatory functions related to animal health, biosecurity enforcement, inspections, and permitting compliance remain within DAB. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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