

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 06 , 2026

RE: H.B. No. 1572
H.D. 2

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Finance, to which was referred H.B. No. 1572, H.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Require the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to:
 - (A) Establish and implement a four-year Restorative Aquaculture Development Program to reduce aquaculture permit processing time, support aquaculture infrastructure expansion, increase the aquaculture workforce, and pursue federal aquaculture grants;
 - (B) Submit annual reports to the Legislature regarding the Program;
 - (C) Contract with an independent third party to conduct an evaluation of the Program;
 - (D) Establish three pilot demonstration sites for restorative aquaculture; and



- (E) Convene a Restorative Aquaculture Advisory Council;
and
- (2) Appropriate funds for aquaculture infrastructure development, aquaculture workforce development and technical assistance, pursuit of federal grants, the pilot demonstration sites, and the Program.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity; Department of Land and Natural Resources; University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program; Hawai'i Food+ Policy; Hawai'i Farmers Union United; and two individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from Hawai'i Farm Bureau and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Finance that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1572, H.D. 2, and recommends that it pass Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Finance,



CHRIS TODD, Chair



