

A Bill for an Act Relating to Aquaculture Development in Hawaii and Making an Appropriation Therefor.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. Findings and Purpose. Modern aquaculture in Hawaii has a history of less than fifteen years, but there is a growing awareness that an aquaculture industry in Hawaii will have a beneficial impact on the economy and on the effective management of the State's natural resources.

The term, "aquaculture industry," involves a comprehensive group of activities including research, development, education, training, culturing, production, processing, marketing, distribution, as well as support goods and services.

Act 226, Session Laws of Hawaii 1976, appropriated to the department of planning and economic development the sum of \$150,000 to develop a statewide plan for aquaculture, including economic assessments and site surveys. The department of planning and economic development has provided the legislature with an interim report on the aquaculture planning program, which began in July 1976, and the aquaculture plan is scheduled for completion by June 30, 1977.

The planning effort now underway will provide a comprehensive treatment of all aspects of aquaculture in Hawaii. It will outline the economic benefits to the State from aquaculture development and will describe the actions needed and their associated costs. The aquaculture plan will also identify those species with the greatest immediate potential to become an industry and recommend the facilities and resources needed in the State for aquaculture development.

The purpose of this Act is to sustain the momentum generated by the aquaculture planning program by insuring that immediate actions will be initiated to encourage and promote commercial development of aquaculture in Hawaii and to undertake the culture of species with potential for Hawaii. It is also the purpose of this Act to qualify Hawaii for participation in federally assisted programs and projects in aquaculture by providing funds and in-kind

services to match such federal funds as may become available.

SECTION 2. Functions. The director of planning and economic development shall:

- (1) Maintain cognizance of actions taken by industry and by federal, state, county, and private agencies in activities relating to aquaculture and promote and support worthwhile aquaculture activities;
- (2) Serve as an information clearinghouse for aquaculture activities in Hawaii;
- (3) Coordinate development projects to investigate and solve biological and technical problems involved in raising selected species with commercial potential;
- (4) Actively seek federal funding of aquaculture activities in Hawaii;
- (5) Undertake such activities as may be required in developing an aquaculture industry;
- (6) Perform such other functions as may be assigned by the governor; and
- (7) Prepare a written report to the legislature by January 18, 1978, of the actions taken under this Act and the progress made in developing aquaculture in Hawaii.

SECTION 3. Staffing. The director of planning and economic development is hereby authorized to hire temporary staff exempt from the provisions of chapters 76 and 77, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to carry out the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 4. Appropriation. There are appropriated from the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the following sums to be expended by the department of planning and economic development for the purposes of this Act:

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| (1) Operating cost category: | \$672,228 |
| (2) Capital investment cost category: | \$138,300 |

Funds not expended or encumbered by June 30, 1978, shall lapse as of that date.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 1977.

(Approved June 23, 1977.)