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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AQUACULTURE.

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

**PART I**

1  
2 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that as the state has  
3 transitioned away from plantation agriculture, diversified  
4 agriculture has become an essential component of our overall  
5 agriculture industry. Aquaculture, which reached \$28,400,000 in  
6 wholesale product value in 2005, represents one of the fastest-  
7 growing sectors of diversified agriculture in the state, with a  
8 future brimming with potential.

9 However, the legislature finds that much of the aquaculture  
10 industry relies on importation of non-native species for  
11 stocking material and broodstock. To protect Hawaii's marine  
12 ecosystem, a secure primary quarantine facility to quarantine  
13 incoming aquatic species used in aquaculture is needed to allow  
14 for inspection and testing by the state aquaculture  
15 veterinarian. In addition, this facility would contain a  
16 sophisticated laboratory capable of evaluating and diagnosing  
17 diseases and testing disease prevention technologies. This



1 facility would also assist in complying with any new federal  
2 regulations affecting aquatic animal imports and exports.

3 The purpose of this part is to position Hawaii as a  
4 continuing leader in commercial aquaculture by appropriating  
5 funds to develop the concept of, and conduct a feasibility study  
6 that includes cost estimates for, the establishment of a primary  
7 quarantine and laboratory facility for aquatic species used in  
8 the Hawaii aquaculture industry.

9 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
11 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 to  
12 develop the concept of, and conduct a feasibility study that  
13 includes cost estimates for, the establishment of a primary  
14 quarantine and laboratory facility for aquatic species used in  
15 the Hawaii aquaculture industry.

16 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
17 agriculture for the purposes of this part.

18 **PART II**

19 SECTION 3. In recent years, the number of edible 'opihi  
20 found in Hawaii has declined. The popularity of 'opihi as a  
21 delicacy has led to overharvesting and has made 'opihi difficult  
22 to find on all islands. Current efforts to address the



1 declining population of Hawaiian 'opihi include Senate Bill No. 6  
2 (2007), which, if passed, will prohibit the sale or offering for  
3 sale of 'opihi, except in certain circumstances. Furthermore, a  
4 diverse group of scientists, private business people, and  
5 community organizations are collaborating with each other to  
6 address the declining 'opihi populations and general lack of  
7 scientific information on this culturally important group of  
8 shellfish.

9       The purpose of this part is to appropriate funds for a  
10 'opihi restoration project to obtain a current baseline  
11 population of Hawaiian 'opihi throughout the islands to more  
12 effectively assist in any future management and stocking  
13 strategies. The project is planned to be a hatchery-based  
14 restocking program as this has proved to be the most viable  
15 method for enhancing the depleted natural populations of 'opihi.

16       SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$168,600 or so much  
18 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 for the  
19 University of Hawaii sea grant college program to cover  
20 salaries, rent, materials and supplies, and overhead costs of  
21 the 'opihi restoration program.



1           The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of  
2 Hawaii for the purposes of this part.

3                                 **PART III**

4           SECTION 5.   This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2008.



**Report Title:**

Aquaculture; Primary Quarantine and Laboratory Facility; 'Opihi Restoration Project.

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to develop the concept of, and conduct a feasibility study that includes cost estimates for, the establishment of a primary quarantine and laboratory facility for aquatic species used in Hawaii's aquaculture industry. Appropriates funds for an 'opihi restoration project. (SD1)

