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LATE

March 16, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON HB 1960, HD 2
RELATING TO AQUACULTURE

Room 414
1:25 PM

Aloha Chair Wakai, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Riviere, and Members of the Committee:

I am Randy Cabral, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports HB 1960, HD 2, which appropriates funds to support the planning and participation of the Hawaii aquaculture industry upcoming Aquaculture America 2020 Conference.

Aquaculture is a major growth industry worldwide. In Hawaii, annual aquaculture production has exceeded \$75 million a year since 2014, making aquaculture one of the largest components of Hawaii's diversified agriculture by wholesale value and creating approximately 400 jobs in this highly technical industry. Hawaii's warm climate, midocean location, demand for seafood products, and strong technical and transportation infrastructures are advantages that create potential for substantial further growth.

The Aquaculture America 2020 Conference is expected to attract more than 2,000 attendees and will include the largest aquaculture trade show in the western hemisphere, with booths featuring the latest technical innovations in aquaculture production. The conference will be an ideal venue to showcase Hawaii's advantages to an interested audience which will include established aquaculture businesses and potential investors. The funding proposed by HB 1960, HD1 will support efforts, begun last November with the statewide Aquaculture Industry Summit at NELHA in Kailua-Kona, to bring together the Hawaii aquaculture industry to promote Hawaii as a strong candidate for increased aquaculture investment. If successful, these efforts will result in greater investment, increased food self-sufficiency, and more "green" jobs for Hawaii. We therefore encourage your Committee to support the funding proposed by HB 1960, HD1.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our input on this measure.

LATE

HB-1960-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 3:33:07 PM

Testimony for ETT on 3/16/2018 1:25:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

Good afternoon, my name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on **HB1960 HD2**, relating to Aquaculture; Conference; Appropriation; Economic Development; and the Hawaii 2020 Initiative.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of **HB1960 HD2** and support its passage.

HB1960 HD2, is in alignment with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it appropriates funds to support the planning and participation of the Hawaii aquaculture industry in the Aquaculture America 2020 conference.

Specifically, the DPH Platform states, "Agriculture in our state must be preserved and its future strengthened. Sufficient prime agricultural lands must be maintained for the health, economic well-being and sustenance of the people. We believe in an integrated approach to agricultural innovation and sustainability. We encourage the responsible development of ocean resources in order to achieve sustainability of our marine resources and ensure and improve the health of our reef and marine life.

This approach includes, but not limited to, the adoption of the native Hawaiian concept of ahupua'a, an integrated approach to land management. This could also include development of economic, land and ocean use policies that foster sustainable corps both for local consumption and for export policies to foster agriculturerelated infrastructure at shipping points, and increased inspection to protect against invasive species and to encourage reduced holding times.

Recognizing the importance of the ocean as a life-sustaining resource, we must protect its ecological and alternative patterns of water treatment and consumption such as the use of recycled water for irrigation, water storage reservoirs, and the use of catchment systems by the public.

As an island state, securing affordable food for all is a priority. We support healthy, sustainable, and diversified local food production, and "Buy Local" strategies to assure greater food security and food safety. (Platform of the DPH, P. 2, Lines 76-86, 90-99 (2016)).

Given that **HB1960 HD2** appropriates funds to support the planning and participation of the Hawaii aquaculture industry in the Aquaculture America 2020 conference, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

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LATE

Testimony Before The
Senate Committee on Economic Development, Tourism, and Technology and
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
SUPPORT & COMMENTS ON HB 1960, HD2
Friday, March 16, 2018, 1:25pm, Room 414

My name is Kevin Chang and I am the Executive Director of Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo (or KUA). KUA works to empower grassroots rural and Native Hawaiian mālama 'āina groups to celebrate their places and pass on their traditions to better Hawai'i and achieve 'āina momona— an abundant, productive ecological system that supports community well-being.

KUA supports the revitalization and further evolution of Hawai'i's mariculture legacy in loko i'a and we see HB 1960 HD2 is an incremental step towards 'āina momona. This bill would appropriate \$300,000 out of general revenue to support the planning and participation of the Hawai'i aquaculture industry in the World Aquaculture Society Aquaculture America 2020 conference to be held in Honolulu.

KUA employs a community-driven approach that currently supports a network of more than 31 mālama 'āina community groups collectively referred to as E Alu Pū (moving forward together), 40 fishpond projects and practitioners called the Hui Mālama Loko I'a, and a new and growing hui of limu practitioners all from across our state. Members and communities of these networks focus on improving natural resource management and restoration of native food and ecological systems, values and ethics more sensitive to the needs of their wahi (their places).

We **suggest** this bill's spirit and preamble contain language that acknowledges the ground breaking legacy of mariculture as developed by the Native Hawaiian people as part and parcel to the foundation of our community's position and uniqueness for this effort.

Loko i'a (traditional Hawaiian fishponds) as developed by the ancestral people of Hawai'i are ingenious and unique methods of fish farming and are undisputedly part of customary and traditional Hawaiian practices and the proud legacy of sustainability in our community. Loko i'a are critical resources for the Hawaiian community and all in Hawai'i and provided primary sources of protein (conservative estimates approximate 300 pounds per acre per year) for an estimated prehistoric population upwards of one million people described by early explorers as healthy and robust despite living without large land mammals.

A study in 1989-90 found approximately 488 loko i'a in the islands of which ninety-nine were actively in production at the time of an inventory in the 1900s. Today, the restoration and reuse of loko i'a perpetuates Native Hawaiian cultural practices and creates an opportunity to increase supplies of certain fish which will make Hawai'i more food-secure and increase sustainable economic development opportunities for rural communities.

Hui Mālama Loko I'a is a network of kia'i loko (fishpond guardians) of nearly 40 ponds and pond complexes who have gathered since 2004 in an effort to support and collaborate to advance the

restoration and perpetuation of loko i'a culture throughout Hawai'i. These kia'i loko are committed to ensuring the long-term reactivation of loko i'a because our kūpuna depended on them for generations and we believe they can help our communities thrive today and into the future. In collaboration with various departments of the State of Hawai'i, independent researchers, and a growing support system of non-profit organizations, this network has advocated for shifts in the regulatory (i.e., permitting) systems to advance the restoration and revitalization of loko i'a. This work is exemplary and very much related to regulatory discussions occurring around the world, so our loko i'a community have much to share from both historical and contemporary perspectives.

More broadly, we believe our environment is about long term investment and vision. We believe the vision of 'āina momona which our communities hold, includes a continued culture of innovation to cultivate abundant food resources for our island communities, and a sharing of Hawaiian innovation within the global aquaculture community. Passing this bill with acknowledgement of this legacy would honor our strengths as a partner in innovation, an appropriate feature that we believe global attendees at this conference will be informed, intrigued and inspired by just as our own community is.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in support.

Aloha 'Āina Momona.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin K.J. Chang', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kevin K.J. Chang
Executive Director

LATE

Senate Committees on Economic Development, Tourism, and Technology and Agriculture and Environment

Friday, March 16, 2018, 1:25 PM, Room 414

Re: HB 1960 HD 2 Relating to Aquaculture

Chair Wakai and Vice Chair Taniguchi and Chair Gabbard and Vice Chair Riviere, my name is John Corbin. I am submitting testimony strongly in favor of HB 1960 HD 2.

Previously, until 2006, I had the privilege of managing the State Aquaculture Development Program for nearly 30 years. Since leaving State government, I have seen the Hawaii industry continue to diversify and expand to record levels of production value, hitting \$78.2 million in 2014 and where it is ranked the 6th largest industry in the country. Hawaii companies are known nationally and internationally for the innovative technologies used to produce: microalgae for nutraceuticals, Specific Pathogen Free shrimp, land-based abalone and oyster seed, high value koi carp and seahorses, and open ocean cage culture of kampachi and our research and consulting communities have equivalent stature around the world.

According to the United Nations, Food and Agriculture Organization, the looming 2030 gap (new supplies needed) in global seafood supplies must be filled by increased aquaculture production. In 2030 the estimate is two thirds of world seafood will come from aquaculture farming. Likewise, American seafood interests, Congress and the Federal government are recognizing that this country can't continue to rely on imported seafood - currently 91% of consumption - that is supplied by a chaotic, unstable supply chain that is subject to further disruption by such strong trends as global climate change and growing geopolitical risks. Fortunately, current U.S. seafood policy is domestic production must increase through rapid expansion of sustainable commercial aquaculture, particularly offshore farming and Hawaii can benefit from this stance..

With this context in mind, the Strategic Development Corporation, along with the Hawaii Aquaculture and Aquaponics Association, prominent members of the aquaculture community and Conference organizers have proposed the 2020 Aquaculture America Initiative to show case Hawaii's aquaculture assets and investment opportunities to the international audience attracted by the coming Aquaculture America meeting in Hawaii. I believe the timing of the collaborative Initiative is excellent and providing financial assistance to a well-coordinated effort will help assure the realization of many benefits to the State and the local industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

John S. Corbin MS, CFP, AICP

President

Aquaculture Planning & Advocacy LLC

Kaneohe, Hawaii

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HB-1960-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 7:56:08 AM

Testimony for ETT on 3/16/2018 1:25:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ronald Weidenbach	Testifying for Hawaii Aquaculture & Aquaponics Association	Support	No

Comments:

The Hawaii Aquaculture and Aquaponics Association (HAAA) strongly supports HB1960 which appropriates funds to help prepare Hawaii to maximize the benefits of the World Aquaculture Society (WAS)'s Aquaculture America Conference coming to Hawaii in 2020. The HAAA was a part of the collaborative effort to bring this important national and regional industry meeting to Hawaii and is part of the Steering Committee to help ensure that our State and the local aquaculture industry gain maximum exposure and business and technical benefit from this exciting event. To do so will take significant planning and preparation. With the loss of the important Hawaii Aquaculture Development Program (ADP) since the last WAS conference was held in Hawaii in 2004, a coalition of several State agencies and groups will now need to pull together to prepare Hawaii for this event. The requested funds will help support this collaborative effort. Thank you for your consideration of this request.