

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor

DOUGLAS S. CHIN  
Lt. Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
1428 South King Street  
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**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT**

**MARCH 9, 2018  
1:30 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1969 HD1  
RELATING TO FOOD SUSTAINABILITY**

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1969 HD1 that requires the Department, in coordination with the Office of Planning, to prepare and periodically update a functional plan for seafood sustainability, pursuant to Section 226-55, HRS, that expands the State's priority on food by including wild seafood as a viable food source. The completed functional plan and any proposed legislation is to be submitted by the Governor no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the 2019 Legislature. The Department of Agriculture offers comments and amendments.

The Department of Agriculture supports the State's initiatives to increase food self-sufficiency. To efficiently carry out the tasks requested in this bill will require the full participation of the Division of Aquatic Resources of the Department of Land and Natural Resources as wild seafood falls outside of the Department of Agriculture's purview. Given the statutory requirements to create and/or update a functional plan, the absence of resources in this measure to carry out the requirements specified in Section 226-55, HRS, and the very short time frame to complete the functional plan for seafood sustainability, the Department of Agriculture recommends that references to the functional plan in this bill be replaced by a seafood management study to determine

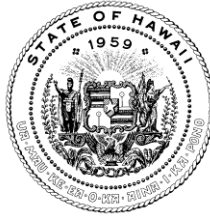


how wild seafood as a viable food source can be aligned with the State's existing mission to manage, conserve and restore the state's aquatic resources and ecosystems.

This study may be the basis for a functional plan element to be considered for inclusion into the State Agricultural Functional Plan at a later date. The Department requests resources to fund this effort.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on  
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Friday, March 9, 2018  
1:30 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 1969, HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO FOOD SUSTAINABILITY

House Bill 1969, House Draft 1 proposes to require the Department of Agriculture (DOA), in coordination with the Office of Planning, to prepare and periodically update a functional plan for seafood sustainability that expands the State's priority on food by including wild seafood as a viable food source. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) appreciates the intent of this measure and offers the following comments.**

Fresh local seafood is an important component of life in Hawai'i. It is important to balance increased food security and self-sufficiency with the need to sustainably manage the State's fisheries resources in the face of increasing threats to our marine environment. The Department notes that wild seafood fisheries are limited and, without catch limits and other regulatory controls, would be unsustainable given the increasing demand for seafood worldwide. In fact, aquaculture is now producing more seafood than is caught from the wild stocks to keep up with the increasing demand. Care must be taken in determining which seafood stocks should be considered to be viable food sources to meet this demand without depleting natural stocks to the point where they are unsustainable.

The Department's Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) is responsible for managing and administering the aquatic life and aquatic resources of the State. DAR does this through the establishment of Marine Managed Areas, bag and size limits, gear restrictions, and other fishery management tools. The Department stands ready to contribute its expertise and defers to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture and the Office of Planning on the need for any additional studies prior to development of such a plan. To the extent that it is tasked with conducting a seafood management study, the Department requests that adequate funding be provided.

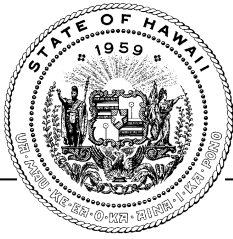
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

SUZANNE D. CASE  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA  
FIRST DEPUTY

JEFFREY T. PEARSON P.E.  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS



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**DAVID Y. IGE**  
GOVERNOR

**LEO R. ASUNCION**  
DIRECTOR  
OFFICE OF PLANNING

Statement of  
**LEO R. ASUNCION**  
Director, Office of Planning  
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

Friday, March 9, 2018  
1:30 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

in consideration of  
**HB 1969, HD 1**  
**RELATING TO FOOD SUSTAINABILITY**

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere, and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment.

The Office of Planning provides the following comments for HB 1969, HD 1. HB 1969, HD 1 requires the Department of Agriculture, in coordination with the Office of Planning and the Department of Land and Natural Resources, to prepare and periodically update a functional plan for seafood sustainability that expands the State's priority on food by including wild seafood as a viable food source.

While understanding Hawaii's seafood sustainability is an important aspect to the planning of Hawaii's overall food sustainability; the Office of Planning recommends that the appropriate functional plan to review seafood sustainability is the Hawaii Agricultural Functional Plan, which was last updated in 1991 and would benefit from an update sought by this legislation.

The Office of Planning defers to the Department of Agriculture regarding the financing and implementation of updating the State Agricultural Functional Plan to include seafood sustainability and wild seafood as a viable food source.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



March 8, 2018

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Hearing Date: Friday, March 9, 2018  
Hearing Time: 1:30 PM  
Regarding: HB 1969 HD1 RELATING TO FOOD SUSTAINABILITY

**STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB 1969 HD1 Relating to Food Sustainability

HFACT is a not-for-profit, IRS 501c(5) agricultural organization, that advocates for small boat commercial, non-commercial, and recreational fishermen throughout Hawaii. HFACT board members sit on a number of international, regional and federal fisheries management and endangered species advisory committees as well as state marine and coastal zone advisory committees; and, HFACT is thoroughly familiar with and participates in ocean and marine resource management in Hawaii and the western and central Pacific.

HFACT **SUPPORTS** HB 1969 HD1 Relating to Food Sustainability. In 2012, the state published a report entitled “INCREASED FOOD SECURITY AND FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY STRATEGY, A STATE STRATEGIC/FUNCTIONAL PLAN”. While HFACT applauds the intent of the plan, the 2012 plan did not address fish and seafood. Nowhere in the plan was there recognition that fish and seafood are a critical and integral part of food security or food self-sufficiency, especially for an island State.

HFACT asks that the committee support HB 1969 HD1 so that a plan could be developed to set forth objectives, policies and actions to increase the amount of locally caught fish that is high quality food consumed by Hawaii’s residents.

It is already recognized by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture that the economic impact of food import replacement is significant. The 2012 report cites that “replacing just 10% of the food Hawaii currently imports would amount to approximately \$313 million dollars which would remain in the State”. The 2012 report further recommends actions to market “Buy Local/It Matters” and to brand and label local food products. HFACT agrees on all counts.

Also identified in the 2012 report is that “a critical factor towards successful implementation will be building partnerships with the increasing number of organizations involved in food self sufficiency/food security.” HFACT stands ready to assist the State Department of Agriculture in this regard.

***Hawai'i Fishermen's Alliance for Conservation and Tradition, Inc.***  
***75-796 Hiona Street, Holualoa HI 96725***

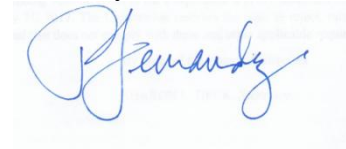
In 2017, sustainability and self-sufficiency discussions focused on agriculture and omitted the **state's largest food producing entity**, ... *which is fishing*. Hawaii's commercial fishing vessels land about \$110 million of seafood. Eighty to 90 percent of the locally caught fish stay in our islands as food for our people and visitors. By comparison, according to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture, cattle production is valued at about \$65 million with only 24 percent kept in the state. Sugarcane is valued at about \$54 million with less than 5 percent kept for local consumption. Algae production is worth \$33 million with 0 percent retained locally. Papayas are worth \$11 million with half of the production staying in the state. All of the banana, milk, lettuce and taro produced in Hawaii are consumed locally, but together these local products are valued at about \$31 million, which is less than a third of the value of local commercial seafood landings.

The alternative to a viable local fishery is increased dependence on much less regulated foreign imports with negative impacts on ocean ecosystem health. Up to a third of these imports are considered to be from illegal, unreported and unregulated fisheries and less than 2 percent of the imports are inspected.

HFACT believes that the argument to create and publish a functional plan for seafood sustainability is very compelling, therefore, we ask the committee for your support. Furthermore, HFACT supports that the Department of Agriculture be the lead agency for this effort.

HFACT thanks the chair, vice-chair, and committee members for this opportunity to provide comment and to assist in providing food to the people of Hawaii and to assist in the conservation of Hawaii's natural resources.

Sincerely and Aloha,



Phil Fernandez  
President

**HB-1969-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/8/2018 11:18:13 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/9/2018 1:30:00 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:

PRESENTATION OF THE  
OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES  
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

THE SENATE

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2018  
Friday, March 9, 2018  
1:30 p.m.  
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 224

RE: Testimony in Support of **HB1969 HD1** RELATING TO FOOD SUSTAINABILITY

To the Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair; the Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice-Chair and the Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

Good afternoon, my name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on **HB1969 HD1** relating to Seafood Sustainability; Functional Plan; Department of Agriculture; and the Office of Planning.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of **HB1969 HD1** and supports its passage.

**HB1969 HD1** is in alignment with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it requires the Department of Agriculture, in coordination with the Office of Planning, to prepare and periodically update a functional plan for seafood sustainability that expands the State's priority on food by including wild seafood as a viable food source.

The DPH Platform states that "[w]e 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.

Recognizing the importance of the ocean as a life-sustaining resource, we must protect its ecological balance while promoting the cultivation of ocean resources as a step toward greater self-sufficiency.

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 78-80, 90-91, 97-99, (2016)).

Given that **HB1969 HD1** requires the Department of Agriculture, in coordination with the Office of Planning, to prepare and periodically update a functional plan for seafood sustainability that expands the State's priority on food by including wild seafood as a viable food source, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities 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

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com, Tel.: (808) 258-8889



**HB-1969-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/5/2018 3:50:25 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/9/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-1969-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/7/2018 10:02:06 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/9/2018 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jason Tannahill	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Date: March 9, 2018 1:30 PM in Conference Room 224

To: The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair

To: The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair

Agriculture and Environment Committee

From: Jason Tannahill, UH Social Work Student

Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work, UH MÅ• noa

RE: Testimony in support **H.B. 1969 HD1** Relating to Food Sustainability

Good afternoon, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere, Members of the Senate Committee on the Agriculture and Environment:

My name is Jason Tannahill, social work student at the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work, University of Hawai'i at MÅ• noa and I am in support of **H.B. 1969 HD1**.

As a third generation fisherman and diver of Hawai'i, I understand the importance that natural resources play in the lives of many individuals and families throughout our islands. This way of life has provided my family with much needed sustenance, especially through economically challenging times. I believe in following the rules and regulations that are in place to help maintain healthy fish stocks so that everyone may benefit. Although I am in support of **H.B. 1969 HD**, a bill that would establish policies, promote research, and ultimately regulate wild seafood as a commodity, I would like you to keep in mind the possible negative impacts that more strict regulations would have on average citizens. People who have spent their whole lives fishing Hawaiian waters,

passing down their knowledge of sustenance gathering from generation to generation in hopes that their families will never go hungry.

I respectfully request that you pass **H.B. 1969 HD1** in a responsible manner that would protect not only our marine ecosystems, but our people as well.

Thank you for your time.

**HB-1969-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/8/2018 3:16:29 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/9/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jennifer Milholen	Individual	Support	No

Comments: