

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
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**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

**APRIL 3, 2018
10:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1969 HD1 SD1
RELATING TO FOOD SUSTAINABILITY**

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1969 HD1 SD1 that 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 seafood management study that expands the State's priority on food by including wild seafood as a viable food source. The completed management study and any proposed legislation is to be submitted to the 2019 Legislature. The Department of Agriculture offers comments and amendments.

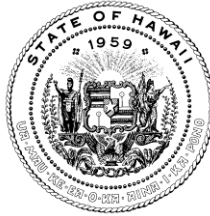
The Department of Agriculture supports the State's initiatives to increase food self-sufficiency. To efficiently carry out the tasks requested in this bill requires the full participation of the Division of Aquatic Resources of the Department of Land and Natural Resources as wild seafood falls well outside of the Department of Agriculture's purview. Given the very short time frame to complete the seafood management study and the fact that the Division of Aquatic Resources is responsible for managing and administering the aquatic life and resources of the State, it appears reasonable that the Department of Land and Natural Resources be made the lead agency and assisted by the Department of Agriculture and the Office of Planning.



The completed study can be considered for inclusion into the State Agricultural Functional Plan at a later date.

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

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS

Tuesday, April 3, 2018
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

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

House Bill 1969, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1 proposes to require the Department of Agriculture (DOA), in coordination with the Office of Planning and Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department), to prepare and periodically update a seafood management study that expands the State's priority on food by including wild seafood as a viable food source. **The 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. Seafood markets are also an important aspect of sustainable fisheries. A seafood sustainability plan will be helpful in identifying ways to help consumers make ocean-friendly choices when eating seafood. The Department stands ready to contribute its expertise to support DOA and the Office of Planning in the development of a seafood management study.

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



April 1, 2018

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date: Tuesday, April 3, 2018

Hearing Time: 10:00AM

Regarding: HB 1969 HD1 SD1 RELATING TO FOOD SUSTAINABILITY

STRONGLY SUPPORT HB 1969 HD1 SD1 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 SD1 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 SD1 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

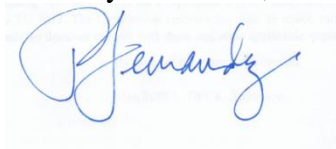
In 2017, sustainability and self-sufficiency discussions focused on agriculture and omitted the **state's largest food producing entity**, ... *which is fishing*. Hawaii's commercial fishing vessels land about \$110 million of seafood. Eighty to 90 percent of the locally caught fish stay in our islands as food for our people and visitors. By comparison, according to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (2014 data), cattle production was valued at about \$65 million with only 24 percent kept in the state. Sugarcane was valued at about \$54 million with less than 5 percent kept for local consumption. Algae production was worth \$33 million with 0 percent retained locally. Papayas were worth \$11 million with half of the production staying in the state. All of the banana, milk, lettuce and taro produced in Hawaii were consumed locally, but together these local products were 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-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2018 11:45:19 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

To the Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair; the Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair and the Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

Good morning, my name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on **HB1969 HD1 SD1** relating to Seafood Sustainability; Seafood Management Study; Department of Agriculture; Office of Planning; Department of Land and Natural Resources; and an appropriation.

The OCC on Legislative Priorities is in favor of **HB1969 HD1 SD1** and supports its passage.

HB1969 HD1 SD1 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 and Department of Land and Natural Resources, to prepare and periodically update a seafood management study that expands the State's priority on food by including wild seafood as a viable food source and it provides for an appropriation.

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 SD1** requires the Department of Agriculture, in coordination with the Office of Planning and Department of Land and Natural Resources, to prepare and periodically update a seafood management study that expands the State's priority on food by including wild seafood as a viable food source and it provides for an appropriation, it is the position of the OCC on Legislative Priorities to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC on Legislative Priorities

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