

**HB-2041**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 2:19:27 PM

Testimony for EDB on 2/2/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Julien Stevens	Kampachi Farms	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2041**

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 6:31:19 AM

Testimony for EDB on 2/2/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Vollbrecht		Support	No

Comments:

Aquaculture is essential to supply seafood for the growing global population, but our country falls far short of the ability to supply our own seafood (91% of the seafood consumed in the U.S. is imported; NOAA, 2012). The U.S. does not lack resources to produce our seafood supply; we have the largest Exclusive Economic Zone of any country, and bountiful research support and educated work force in the areas of biology, automation, operations, and best practices to support the sustainable expansion of aquaculture. In the past, the U.S. aquaculture industry has lacked both investment, and concerted effort to streamline the regulatory pathways for growing the industry. Currently, the regulatory climate is shifting towards a position of attractive opportunity for investors. The remaining challenge is then investment. Incubators, such as this, would be an effective way to strategically locate aquaculture start-ups in Hawaii, attract investors, and support their growth into viable businesses.

HOST park is home to businesses making contributions to the aquaculture industry on a global scale, and it is a premier place to research and develop innovative aquaculture technologies for two main reasons: support infrastructure and mentorship. There are mentor resources located in HOST (specializing in all sectors of aquaculture research and production) that can supply world-class support to start-up aquaculture entrepreneurs. The surface and deep seawater delivery facilities available at HOST provide essential support for start-up activities. It would not be feasible for an aquaculture entrepreneur to conduct technology or product development research without steady supply of seawater, like that on tap at HOST. **An aquaculture incubator, such as this, would be unique on the world stage;** and, would provide opportunity for local investment and innovation that could assist sustainable growth of the industry on a global scale.

I strongly support appropriating funds to develop the aquaculture incubator facility, and I welcome the bright minds it will attract.



# NATURAL ENERGY LABORATORY OF HAWAII AUTHORITY

*An Authority of the State of Hawaii attached to the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism*



Statement of  
**Gregory P. Barbour**  
**Executive Director**

Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority  
before the

## **COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS**

**And**

## **COMMITTEE ON OCEAN, MARINE RESOURCES AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

Friday, February 2, 2018  
11:00 am  
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

in consideration of

### **HB 2041 RELATING TO AQUACULTURE.**

The Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority (NELHA) strongly supports HB 2041 which appropriates \$500,000 to NELHA for the establishment of an aquaculture proof of concept center which we refer to as the Hawaii Center for Aquaculture Sustainability (HCAS).

Aquaculture is the world's fastest growing agriculture sector and produces more than 50% of global seafood supply. By 2020 the industry value is expected to reach \$200Bn; a 38% increase from today. As the world demands more and more seafood; the wild fisheries are no longer able to support that, and any future growth of seafood is going to have to be together with industrial scale aquaculture. Accordingly, there is a clear global trend and demand for more innovative industrial scale aquaculture, particularly in open marine environments. The federal government has also recently stated the desire to open up the Pacific, for the first time,

to offshore aquaculture. Recognizing these developments, the world's capital markets are beginning to invest into the marine aquaculture sector and there has been a noticeable increase in investor interest in aquaculture companies. Hawaii has built a very credible global reputation over the past 20 years in aquaculture and is already recognized as a pioneer in this industry as we are home to the global brood shrimp industry and a pioneer in open ocean fish farming.

The HCAS will provide proof-of-concept (POC) and commercialization services to start-ups in Hawaii's aquaculture cluster. This initiative is focused on attracting investor capital and a follow-on fund for aquaculture in Hawaii to develop technical and intellectual property that can benefit a global industry. The general approach is to create a facility and program at NELHA, using the existing world-class facilities, to attract entrepreneurs in startups to help them get into the market and find a commercial space for their project. The initiative will target companies that service global markets, develop new cultured species, pioneer new feed sources and the technologies needed to support open ocean and land-based aquaculture.

Finally, it is important to note that developing technical expertise and intellectual property relevant to a global aquaculture industry will complement and benefit existing efforts of the University of Hawaii and other State agencies currently involved in aquaculture with a focus on research and growing food for local consumption.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.



**PO Box 1095  
Kurtistown, Hawaii  
+1-808-938-2840  
jim.wyban@gmail.com**

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January 31, 2018

House Committee  
Honolulu HI

**RE: House Bill HB2041**

Dear Committee,

I am writing in support of HB2041, which seeks to appropriate \$500,000 to DBEDT to establish an aquaculture incubator at NELHA to bring together entrepreneurs and investors to develop Hawaii's aquaculture industry.

Aquaculture is the world's fastest growing food production platform. Hawaii has a long and colorful history in this industry and needs to continue investing to maintain its preeminent place. HOST Park in Kona is a world-class facility. Funding development of an aquaculture specific incubator at HOST Park would continue Hawaii's lead in this sector.

I wholeheartedly support this effort and ask that you approve this bill and support Hawaii's developing aquaculture industry.

Sincerely,

Jim

Jim Wyban PhD  
President  
Marine Genetics

**HB-2041**

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 4:43:10 PM

Testimony for EDB on 2/2/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alexander Leonard		Support	No

Comments:



Email: [communications@ulupono.com](mailto:communications@ulupono.com)

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS AND OCEAN, MARINE  
RESOURCES, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Friday, February 2, 2018 — 11:00 a.m. — Room 309

### **Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports HB 2041, Relating to High Technology**

Chair Evans, Vice Chair Keohokalole, Chair Ing, Vice Chair DeCoite, and Members of the Committees on Economic Development and Business and Ocean, Marine Resources, & Hawaiian Affairs Committees:

My name is Kyle Datta and I am General Partner of Ulupono Initiative, a Hawai'i-based impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life for the people of Hawai'i by working toward solutions that create more locally produced food; increase affordable, clean, renewable energy; and better management of waste and fresh water. Ulupono believes that self-sufficiency is essential to our future prosperity and will help shape a future where economic progress and mission-focused impact can work hand in hand.

**Ulupono strongly supports HB 2041**, which appropriates funds for the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to establish an aquaculture incubator at the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawai'i Authority, because it aligns with our goal of creating more locally produced food.

No industry sector can prosper without technology innovation. As Hawai'i's local food issues become more complex and challenging, organizations need additional resources and support to address and overcome them. We appreciate this committee's efforts to look at policies that support local food production through supporting a high technology incubator for aquaculture.

Our commercial research shows that Hawai'i can be competitive in the area of aquaculture research, because of its physical advantages, particularly the pathogen free waters at NELHA. The global aquaculture industry is poised for the next phase of growth, and we have made investments in scaling up aquaculture in Hawai'i. Specifically, we have funded the expansion of the Blue Ocean Mariculture kamapachi farm, and have performed investment reviews of algae, abalone, and tilapia companies. Hawai'i's aquaculture industry has grown considerably over the last five years, and an incubator could help it double within the next 10 years.

*Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i*



If Hawai'i is to capitalize on the commercial opportunity in the global aquaculture industry it will have to undertake a concerted and collaborative effort to raise its global visibility in marine aquaculture. Public and private stakeholders in Hawai'i's aquaculture industry have agreed to support a development initiative to build scale in important industry inputs like feed sources and processing capacity and to clarify permitting issues. We have been honored to be part of the public-private partnership to build the Oceanic Institute Feed mill, currently under construction on Hawai'i Island.

NELHA already has the office space and commercial expansion footprint to attract international entrepreneurs and venture capital to the site. The proposed aquaculture incubator at NELHA will address this need by establishing a facility that will leverage NELHA's world-class marine resources, with its strong base of global aquaculture companies, to attract entrepreneurs and investors to startup their companies here in Hawai'i.

With the Legislature's support for this initiative, NELHA will be able to have the aquaculture incubator staffed and operational by the time the global aquaculture conference, Aquaculture America 2020, is held in Hawai'i in February 2020. This will allow Hawai'i to demonstrate to the global aquaculture community that our state is committed to growing our local aquaculture industry. It will also position Hawai'i as a leader in providing innovative solutions to the global aquaculture industry.

We believe that by collaborating, we can help produce more local food and support an economically robust homegrown agriculture industry, which strengthens our community with fresh, healthy food. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Kyle Datta  
General Partner





**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

LUIS P. SALAVERIA  
DIRECTOR

MARY ALICE EVANS  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
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Statement of  
**LUIS P. SALAVERIA**  
**Director**  
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS  
AND  
OCEAN, MARINE RESOURCES, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

Friday, February 2, 2018  
11:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

in consideration of

**HB 2041  
RELATING TO AQUACULTURE.**

Chairs Evans and Ing, Vice Chairs Keohokalole and DeCoite, and Members of the Committees.

The Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism (DBEDT) supports the intent of HB 2041, which appropriates \$500,000 to NELHA for the establishment of an aquaculture incubator.

An aquaculture incubator at NELHA would greatly benefit and contribute to Hawaii's efforts to develop an aquaculture industry.

DBEDT supports the intent of this bill so long as it does neither replace or adversely impact the Administration's priorities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

House Committee on Economic Development and Business, and  
House Committee on Ocean Marine Resources and Hawaiian Affairs  
Friday, February 2, 2018, 11:00 am, Room 309

Re: HB 2041 Relating to Aquaculture

Chair Evans, Vice Chair Keohokalole, Chair Ing, Vice Chair De Coite and Committee Members, my name is John Corbin. I am submitting testimony strongly in support of HB 2041 to establish an aquaculture incubator at the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority (NELHA).

While serving as Manager of the State Aquaculture Development Program, I was a member of the Board of Directors of NELHA (formerly the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii) almost continuously from 1980 until 2006. During that time period NELHA, with Federal, State and private investment, became the preeminent aquaculture site in the state and known around the world. NELHA's competitive advantages include: access to warm, surface and cold, deep ocean water; abundant sunshine; a highly controlled biosecurity regime; and strong, comprehensive management of the site by the State. NELHA and its Hawaii Ocean Science and Technology Park (HOST Park) are unique facilities focused on developing 21 st Century technologies to help feed and light the world.

I believe even greater economic benefits can be gained from NELHA, if an aquaculture incubator were established there. The economic drivers in today's world for expanding the aquaculture industry are well stated in the bill and include: need for more healthy seafood through sustainable technologies; need for reduction of the seafood trade deficit; investors and entrepreneurs that are interested in aquaculture; and need for good jobs in a long-term, growth industry.

Moreover, I believe the State, the University, and the Hawaii high Tech community have had a great deal of success in setting up and running incubator facilities for fast-moving, modern high tech. This experience could translate readily to a facility focused on aquaculture technologies utilizing the resources at NELHA. Investment in an incubator at NELHA will take advantage of the building, global Blue Aquaculture Wave in the emerging Blue Economy and would be a prudent investment.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments.

John S. Corbin MS, CFP, AICP  
President  
Aquaculture Planning & Advocacy LLC  
Kaneohe, Hawaii

**HB-2041**

Submitted on: 2/1/2018 10:23:50 AM

Testimony for EDB on 2/2/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Elizabeth Corbin		Support	No

Comments:

The Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii has a proven history as a location for the development of commercial aquaculture and is a natural location for an incubator to support further development of this industry. Aquaculture, with its long tradition in Hawaii, is an important component of diversified agriculture and has the potential to expand its contribution to the State's economic development and food security objectives.



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e-mail [info@hfbf.org](mailto:info@hfbf.org); [www.hfbf.org](http://www.hfbf.org)

February 2, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON OCEAN, MARINE RESOURCES & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

**TESTIMONY ON HB 2041**  
RELATING TO AQUACULTURE

Room 309  
11:00 AM

Aloha Chair Evans, Chair Ing, Vice Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair DeCoite, and Members of the Committees:

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 2174**, which appropriates funds for the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to establish an aquaculture incubator at the National Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority (NELHA) to bring together entrepreneurs and investors to develop Hawaii's aquaculture industry.

The bill's preamble correctly notes the tremendous increase in aquaculture investment worldwide in recent years, and the opportunities for expansion of the industry locally if more of this investment can be attracted to Hawaii.

Aquaculture is a highly technical and capital-intensive industry. Entrepreneurs seeking to start an aquaculture business need access to land and water; capital to purchase tanks, pumps, feed, broodstock, and many other items; and often a period of research and development to refine the necessary technology. These requirements create an impediment to entry of individuals or companies that may have good ideas, but insufficient funding to develop their ideas independently. An incubator facility at NELHA could help mitigate this barrier to entry by providing space, water, and technical facilities to startup businesses at reasonable cost. NELHA is an exceptional facility which features an ideal climate, access to cold deep-ocean water and warm surface water, and the opportunity to interact with experts in aquaculture biology, engineering, and finance. Successful startups will help to grow Hawaii's aquaculture industry, bringing in investment, producing high-quality seafood, and increasing employment.

Hawaii has a long history of successful government investment to encourage aquaculture development, starting with the creation of the Aquaculture Development Program in the 1970's and continuing with the establishment of NELHA in the 1980's. These efforts have paid off in the form of an industry that generates more than \$75 million a year in wholesale value. We expect that an aquaculture incubator at NELHA will be another wise investment that will result in continued growth. We therefore respectfully urge you to support the appropriation proposed by HB 2041.

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

**HB-2041**

Submitted on: 2/1/2018 10:47:31 AM

Testimony for EDB on 2/2/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Frederick M. Mencher	Hawaii Aquaculture and Aquaponics Association	Support	No

Comments:

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI  
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS  
AND OCEAN, MARINE RESOURCES, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**FEBRUARY 2, 2018  
11:00 AM  
CONFERENCE ROOM 309**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2041  
RELATING TO AQUACULTURE**

Chairperson Evans, Chairperson Ing and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2041, relating to aquaculture. This bill appropriates funds to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to establish an aquaculture incubator at the National Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority (NELHA). The Department supports this bill provided it does not impact the Department's priorities listed in the Executive Budget.

Aquaculture is a fast-developing industry that offers solutions to the ever-increasing demand of animal protein by a growing global population. It attracts investment capitals, talented researchers, and aspiring entrepreneurs. An aquaculture incubator provides catalysts for new ventures to be created.

NELHA is an excellent site to host such an aquaculture incubator because of easy access to both freshwater and seawater at different temperatures, and the large number of successful aquaculture businesses already present.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





Written Statement of  
**Robbie Melton**  
Executive Director & CEO  
Hawaii Technology Development Corporation  
before the  
**House Committee on Economic Development & Business**  
and  
**House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources, & Hawaiian Affairs**  
Friday, February 2, 2018  
11:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

In consideration of  
**HB2041**  
**RELATING TO AQUACULTURE**

Chairs Evans & Ing, Vice Chairs Keohokalole & DeCoite, and Members of the Committees.

The Hawaii Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) **supports** HB2041 that appropriates funds for the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to establish an aquaculture incubator at the National Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority to bring together entrepreneurs and investors to develop Hawaii's aquaculture industry.

As part of HTDC's vision to create 80,000 new innovation jobs in Hawaii earning \$80,000 or more by 2030, HTDC supports initiatives aimed at promoting technology and innovation jobs. Hawaii has a history of success with aquaculture and the Hawaii Small Business Innovation Research (HSBIR) program and has a world class research facility at NELHA. Through HTDC's Neighbor Island Initiative (NI3) program, HTDC has an office at NELHA Hale Iako facility with an experienced business mentor. HTDC's NI3 program has worked together with the Hawaii Small Business Development Center (HiSBDC) and NELHA in providing numerous training workshops this past year at NELHA covering topics such as pitching to investors, winning grants, state matching grant programs, food safety training, business planning, and others.

HTDC defers to NELHA on the implementation of this measure.

HTDC supports this initiative as long as it does not replace our priorities requested in the Executive Budget. Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.



**HB-2041**

Submitted on: 2/1/2018 12:42:25 PM

Testimony for EDB on 2/2/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ronald Weidenbach	Hawaii Aquaculture & Aquaponics Association	Support	No

Comments:

NELHA has been a nationally and internationally recognized success story for Hawaii aquaculture. This State facility has long fostered aquaculture start-up R&D. But to be successful in today's highly competitive global business economy, Hawaii's aquaculture companies need to also have strong business and financial skills. The proposed NELHA aquaculture incubator fills this important need and will provide long-term benefits to the industry and State with the addition of more highly trained aquaculture entrepreneurs. Please also read John Corbin's expert testimony regarding this important measure.



**Committee on Economic  
Development & Business**

Rep. Cindy Evans, Chair  
Rep. Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

**Committee on Ocean, Marine  
Resources & Hawaiian Affairs**

Rep. Kaniela Ing, Chair  
Rep. Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair

February 1, 2018

Support for H.B. 2041 Relating to Aquaculture

Blue Ocean Mariculture is the world's leading producer of cultivated Kahala (*Seriola rivoliana*). Our fish are served under the Hawaiian Kanpachi brand in sushi and fine dining restaurants in Hawaii and across the mainland United States. We employ 27 people full-time in the Kona area in our hatchery and offshore aquaculture operations. Blue Ocean's hatchery is located within the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority (NELHA).

We strongly support H.B. 2041 related to establishing an aquaculture incubator at NELHA to bring together entrepreneurs and investors to develop Hawaii's aquaculture industry.

An aquaculture incubator at NELHA will be a valuable resource in building a strong aquaculture industry locally and across the state. Aquaculture provides an opportunity to strengthen our state's economy by diversifying our economic base, reducing the amount of seafood imported to Hawaii, and creating high-wage job opportunities.

We also believe Hawaii can be a leader in the global aquaculture industry and provide leadership on environmentally responsible aquaculture practices. We believe the best way to pursue Hawaii's potential in aquaculture is through the type of program contemplated by H.B. 2041. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Blue Ocean Mariculture



**HAWAII  
STRATEGIC  
DEVELOPMENT  
CORPORATION**

No. 1 Capitol District Building  
250 South Hotel Street, Suite 509  
P.O. Box 2359  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96804  
Telephone: (808) 587-3830

Statement of  
**Karl K. Fooks**  
**President**

Hawaii Strategic Development Corporation

Before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS**  
And  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON OCEAN, MARINE RESOURCES, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

Friday, February 2, 2018  
11:00 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

In support of

**HB 2041**  
**RELATING TO AQUACULTURE**

Chair Evans, Chair Ing, Vice Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair DeCoite and Members of the Committees on Economic Development & Business, and Ocean, Marine Resources, & Hawaiian Affairs:

The Hawaii Strategic Development Corporation (HSDC) **supports** HB 2041, which appropriates funds to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to establish an aquaculture incubator at the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority to bring together entrepreneurs and investors to develop Hawaii's aquaculture industry.

The global aquaculture industry is poised for a sustained period of growth and expansion. Hawaii is home to both pioneering industry research efforts and commercial activities that have made significant contributions to the global industry. If Hawaii is to capitalize on the commercial opportunity in the global aquaculture industry it will have to undertake a concerted and collaborative effort to raise its global visibility in marine aquaculture. Public and private stakeholders in Hawaii's aquaculture industry have agreed to support a development initiative to build scale in important industry inputs like feed sources and processing capacity and to clarify permitting issues.

This development initiative also needs to support the attraction and growth of innovative companies that will create the biological, engineering and operational solutions that will be demanded by an industrial scale global industry. The proposed aquaculture incubator at NELHA will address this need by establishing a facility that will leverage the NELHA's world class marine resources, with its strong base of global

aquaculture companies, to attract entrepreneurs and investors to startup their companies here in Hawaii.

The success of programs supporting entrepreneurial companies in the global aquaculture industry like Fish 2.0 and Hatch, the world's first aquaculture accelerator, have demonstrated a strong investor and strategic corporate interest in investing in this growing industry sector.

With the Legislature's support for this initiative, NELHA will be able to have the aquaculture incubator staffed and operational by the time the global aquaculture conference, Aquaculture America 2020, is held in Hawaii in February 2020. This will allow Hawaii to signal a strong commitment to remaining at the forefront of innovation to the global aquaculture community that will attend the conference and position Hawaii as a leader in providing innovative solutions to the global aquaculture industry.

HSDC supports the bill as long as it does not either replace or adversely impact the Administration's priorities. We defer to the Department of Budget and Finance for the fiscal impact of this measure on the state budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**LATE**

**HB-2041**

Submitted on: 2/2/2018 6:51:12 AM

Testimony for EDB on 2/2/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities	Support	No

Comments:

**PRESENTATION OF THE  
OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES  
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS  
AND  
COMMITTEE ON OCEAN, MARINE RESOURCES & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2018  
Friday, February 2, 2018  
11:00 a.m.**

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 309

**RE: Testimony in Support** of HB 2041, RELATING TO AQUACULTURE

To the Honorable Cindy Evans, Chair; the Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee on Economic Development & Business:

To the Honorable Kaniela Ing, Chair; the Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources & Hawaiian Affairs:

Good morning, 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 House Bill No. 2041, relating to aquaculture Incubators. The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of House Bill No. 2041 and support its passage.

House Bill No. 2041 is in alignment with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it appropriates funds for the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to establish an aquaculture incubator at the National Energy Laboratory of Hawaii.

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 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 the development of economic, land and ocean use policies that foster sustainable corps both for local consumption and for export policies to foster agriculture-related 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-

Given that House Bill No. 2041 appropriates funds for the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to establish an aquaculture incubator at the National Energy Laboratory of Hawaii, 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

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