

JAN 17 2020

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AQUACULTURE.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii's aquaculture  
2 industry is critical to the State's economy and to the  
3 sustainable production of local food. Currently, the State  
4 imports roughly ninety per cent of its food, leaving residents  
5 vulnerable to natural disasters and supply chain disruptions.  
6 Food importation also risks the introduction of invasive species  
7 found in cargo and aboard ships. The State's continued  
8 biosecurity and economic viability depend on increasing local  
9 food production, including aquaculture.

10           In 2017, the farm gate value of Hawaii's aquaculture  
11 industry was \$76,400,000, making it the third highest  
12 contributor to the State economy in diversified agriculture.  
13 However, given Hawaii's favorable climate, there is still  
14 significant opportunity for growth. Growing the aquaculture  
15 industry will require research and extension support to ensure  
16 that growth takes place safely, profitably, and in a way that  
17 minimizes biosecurity risks.



1           The Hawaii interagency biosecurity plan (2017-2027)  
2 highlights the need to support safe growth in the aquaculture  
3 industry. Action 1.13 in the section entitled "Postborder  
4 Technology, Infrastructure, Funding and Staffing," calls for the  
5 establishment of multiple positions for this purpose. These  
6 positions include two aquaculture extension agents; one  
7 extension specialist; and one researcher to conduct research,  
8 develop screening and quarantine protocols, develop pest  
9 management strategies, and conduct outreach specific to Hawaii.  
10 Establishing these positions would also help to achieve other  
11 goals in the biosecurity plan related to risk assessments for  
12 aquaculture species not yet utilized in Hawaii and safety  
13 assessments for aquaculture facilities (Preborder Process Action  
14 1.7, Postborder Process Action 4.6).

15           The university of Hawaii has established one permanent  
16 research scientist, one grant-funded extension agent at the sea  
17 grant college program, and one extension specialist position  
18 which is shared between the college of tropical agriculture and  
19 human resources and the sea grant college program. This limited  
20 staffing places the long-term future and stability of this  
21 research at risk. While the university of Hawaii at Manoa



1 focuses limited resources on aquaculture, adequate funding,  
2 permanent staff, and extension support remain critical to  
3 meeting the needs of the State's growing aquaculture industry.

4 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate  
5 funds for the university of Hawaii college of tropical  
6 aquaculture and human resources and the sea grant college  
7 program to support the sustainable growth of the local  
8 aquaculture industry by establishing two permanent aquaculture  
9 extension agent positions and one permanent aquaculture research  
10 position.

11 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
13 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 to add two  
14 permanent positions to university of Hawaii college of tropical  
15 agriculture and human resources, including one aquaculture  
16 extension agent and one aquaculture researcher, and one  
17 permanent aquaculture extension agent position to the university  
18 of Hawaii sea grant college program. The funds shall be  
19 allocated as follows:

20 (1) \$ for two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE)  
21 aquaculture extension agents;



1 (2) \$ for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE)  
2 aquaculture researcher; and

3 (3) \$ for operating expenses.

4 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the university of  
5 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

6 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

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INTRODUCED BY: Mike Gabbard



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# S.B. NO. 2729

**Report Title:**

UH; Aquaculture; Sustainability; Biosecurity; Food Production; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds for the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources and the Sea Grant College Program to support the sustainable growth of the local aquaculture industry by establishing 2 permanent aquaculture extension agent positions and 1 permanent aquaculture research position.

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