
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
13 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 to
14 add two permanent positions to University of Hawaii college of
15 tropical agriculture and human resources, including two
16 aquaculture extension agents and one aquaculture researcher, and
17 one permanent aquaculture extension agent position to the
18 University of Hawaii sea grant college program. The funds shall
19 be 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.



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. (SD1)

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