

**HB-1346**

Submitted on: 2/16/2021 10:51:04 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/18/2021 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
John Kaneko	Hawaii Seafood Council	Support	No

Comments:

February 16, 2021

Re: House Bill 1346 Testimony in SUPPORT

The Hawaii Seafood Council (HSC) supports the intent of HB 1346. It seeks to generate greater recognition of commercial and non-commercial wild seafood as an important component of Hawaii's food production and self-sufficiency.

Clarifications are needed.

Item (b)(2) Unsure what is meant by impacts of wild seafood on agriculture. Unsure how non-commercial consumption data can be collected. Data needed to determine the economic impacts of Hawaii's federally managed fisheries are being collected by NOAA Fisheries with data sharing with the State.

Item (b)(3) The State collects Fish Dealer reports from fishers selling directly to wholesalers and retailers to capture that portion of the supply. The majority of Hawaii's commercial fish landings are from federally managed fisheries that are comprehensively documented. Landing and market data (first receiver) are collected and analyzed by NOAA Fisheries. Clarification is needed to avoid redundancy, how fish landing data from State managed fisheries and market data are to be collected, and how the data set is to be used.

Item (b)(4) Classifying and regulating wild seafood. "Regulation" of wild seafood as a food commodity in the State needs clarification. What type of regulation is anticipated? Seafood safety (including wild and farmed) is regulated by federal (FDA) and State (DOH). Fishing is regulated by federal (NOAA Fisheries) and State (DLNR) depending on jurisdiction. Seafood Product labeling at retail is regulated by the USDA COOL Rule (country of origin labeling) and State regulations under DOH. Need to clarify what is meant by "regulating wild seafood".

HSC is a non-profit organization that supports Hawaii's responsible fisheries, and safe and sustainable seafood.

John Kaneko

Program Manager



February 16, 2021

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair  
Rep. Patrick Pihana Branco, Vice Chair  
COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

Date: Thursday, February 18, 2021  
Time: 8:30 a.m.  
Place: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Regarding: HB1346 RELATING TO FOOD SUSTAINABILITY

**STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB1346 Relating to Food Sustainability

HFACT is a not-for-profit, IRS 501c(5) organization, that advocates for small boat commercial, non-commercial, and recreational fishermen throughout Hawaii. HFACT board members sit on a number of 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 central Pacific.

HFACT **SUPPORTS** HB 1346 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 plan, the 2012 plan did not address fish and seafood. Nowhere in the plan was there recognition of fish and seafood as part of food security and food self-sufficiency.

HFACT asks that the committee support HB 1346 so that a plan could be developed to set forth objectives, policies and actions to increase the amount of locally caught fish that is 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 both counts.

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

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 in this regard.

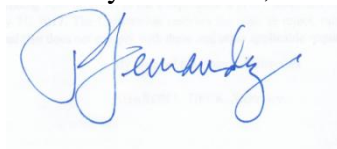
In 2017, sustainability and self-sufficiency discussions focused on agriculture and omitted the **state’s largest food producing entity, *which is fishing***. Hawaii’s commercial fishing vessels land about \$110 million of seafood. Eighty to 90 percent of the locally caught fish stay in our islands as 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 fish landings.

The alternative to a viable local fishery is increased dependence on much less regulated foreign imports. 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.

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



# **FISHING TALES**

with **Mike  
Sakamoto**

Testimony to the House Committee on Water & Land  
Thursday, February 18, 2021  
Via Videoconference

Testimony in support of HB 1346, Relating to Food Sustainability

To: The Honorable David Tarnas, Chair  
The Honorable Patrick Branco, Vice-Chair  
Members of the Committee

My name is Stefanie Sakamoto, and I am testifying on behalf of Fishing Tales with Mike Sakamoto, a company that was founded by my father in 1985.

We are in support of HB 1346, Relating to Food Sustainability, which would require the Department of Agriculture, in coordination with the appropriate departmental agency, 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

Food security and sustainability have long been a concern to our island state. Although we are surrounded by the ocean, many don't view the fishing industry as crucial to our survival. Seafood is a huge part of many of the different cultures that make up Hawaii, and locally caught, fresh seafood is something that is often taken for granted. This bill would recognize the hard working men and women of the fishing and seafood industry, as well as the importance of seafood to Hawaii's future and security.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**HB-1346**

Submitted on: 2/16/2021 6:53:15 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/18/2021 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

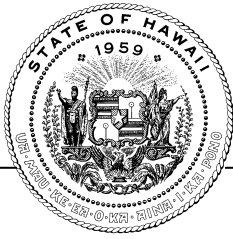
Dear Honorable Committee Members,

Please support HB1346.

Hawaii has been a leader in sustainability, let's keep it that way.

Thank you,

Andrea Quinn



# OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

235 South Beretania Street, 6th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Telephone: (808) 587-2846  
Fax: (808) 587-2824  
Web: <http://planning.hawaii.gov/>

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

MARY ALICE EVANS  
DIRECTOR  
OFFICE OF PLANNING

Statement of  
**MARY ALICE EVANS**  
Director, Office of Planning  
before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND**  
Thursday, February 18, 2021  
8:30 AM  
State Capitol

in consideration of  
**HB 1346**  
**RELATING TO FOOD SUSTAINABILITY.**

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Branco, and Members of the House Committee on Water and Land:

HB 1346 requires the Department of Agriculture, in coordination with the appropriate departmental agency, 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 Office of Planning supports the intent of this measure and offers the following **comments and amendments**.

While understanding Hawai'i's seafood sustainability is an important aspect to the planning of Hawai'i's overall food sustainability and food security, the Office of Planning recommends that the most appropriate functional plan to integrate wild seafood sustainability is the [State Agricultural Functional Plan](#). The State's Agricultural Functional Plan was last updated in 1991 and would benefit from an update sought by this legislation.

The Hawai'i State Planning Act via [§226-55 of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes](#), describes the requirements of the preparation and update of the state's functional plans. In conformance with functional planning update, submittal, and implementation processes described in HRS §§226-55 to -57, the Office of Planning requests the following amendments in HB 1346:

1. Page 1, Lines 1-6:

“SECTION 1. (a) Pursuant to section 226-55, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the department of agriculture, in coordination with the ~~[appropriate departmental agency]~~ office of planning, shall prepare and periodically update ~~[a] the agricultural~~ functional plan ~~[for]~~ to include among other agricultural economic updates, seafood sustainability that expands the State's priority on food by including wild seafood as a viable food source.”

2. Page 1, Lines 7-9:

“(b) As part of the updated agricultural functional plan which shall include among other agricultural economic updates, ~~[for]~~ seafood sustainability, the department of agriculture and the ~~[appropriate departmental agency]~~ office of planning shall consider the following:”

3. Page 2, Lines 5-8:

“Incorporating ~~[the functional plan for]~~ seafood sustainability ~~[, in part or in whole,]~~ into the state agricultural functional plan related to increased food security and food self-sufficiency.

The Office of Planning notes that it will likely take longer than six months to update a 30-year-old functional plan and recommends the extension of the submission of the plan by one-year through the following amendment in HB 1346:

4. Page 2, Lines 9-12:

“(c) The governor shall submit the functional plan pursuant to section 226-56, Hawaii Revised Statutes, including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of ~~[2022]~~ 2023.”

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

The Office of Planning is actively working on the sustainable development and climate adaptation of the state to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations of Hawai‘i to meet their own needs. The Office of Planning looks forward to supporting the Department of Agriculture to meet these sustainability endeavors as described in this measure to strengthen Hawai‘i’s food security.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor

JOSH GREEN  
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA  
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE  
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

February 18, 2021  
8:30 A.M.  
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1346  
RELATING TO FOOD SUSTAINABILITY

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1346. The bill requires the Department of Agriculture (Department), in coordination with the appropriate departmental agency 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 functional plan is to be submitted prior to the convening of the 2022 Legislature. The Department offers comments on this measure.

The Department has no role in regulating pelagic fisheries and no authority to set policy, establish objectives or enforcement action on seafood sustainability. These activities would require oversight by an agency well-versed in matters involving wild caught seafood. The Department's expertise and regulatory oversight authority with regards to fish and seafood is limited to net-pen aquaculture and other farm-raised seafood.

This bill seeks to establish a closer working relationship between the fishing and aquaculture industries. Despite utilizing different methods of production, both industries



strive to provide the public the same thing - a consistent, safe, and healthy seafood product. The Hawaii Seafood Council, with the support of NOAA Fisheries, has already established a strong marketing and education foundation that could dovetail with the Department's industry development efforts thereby raising the profile of both industries. The Department concurs that collaboration with other appropriate regulatory agencies to establish objectives, policies, and actions; research the impact that wild seafood has on food self-sufficiency in Hawaii; collect wholesale and retail sales data on wild seafood; and classify and regulate wild seafood as a food commodity in Hawaii, is a worthy objective.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor

JOSH GREEN  
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA  
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE  
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

February 18, 2021  
8:30 A.M.  
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1346  
RELATING TO FOOD SUSTAINABILITY

Chairperson Tarnas and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1346. The bill requires the Department of Agriculture (Department), in coordination with the appropriate departmental agency 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 functional plan is to be submitted prior to the convening of the 2022 Legislature. The Department offers comments on this measure.

The Department has no role in regulating pelagic fisheries and no authority to set policy, establish objectives or enforcement action on seafood sustainability. These activities would require oversight by an agency well-versed in matters involving wild caught seafood. The Department's expertise and regulatory oversight authority with regards to fish and seafood is limited to net-pen aquaculture and other farm-raised seafood.

This bill seeks to establish a closer working relationship between the fishing and aquaculture industries. Despite utilizing different methods of production, both industries



strive to provide the public the same thing - a consistent, safe, and healthy seafood product. The Hawaii Seafood Council, with the support of NOAA Fisheries, has already established a strong marketing and education foundation that could dovetail with the Department's industry development efforts thereby raising the profile of both industries. The Department concurs that collaboration with other appropriate regulatory agencies to establish objectives, policies, and actions; research the impact that wild seafood has on food self-sufficiency in Hawaii; collect wholesale and retail sales data on wild seafood; and classify and regulate wild seafood as a food commodity in Hawaii, is a worthy objective.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.