

# OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

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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, March 18, 2021  
8:30 AM  
State Capitol

in consideration of  
**SB 1344, SD 2**  
**RELATING TO FOOD SUSTAINABILITY.**

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

SB 1344, SD 2 requires the Department of Agriculture, in coordination with the Office of Planning, to prepare and periodically update the Agricultural functional plan to include other agricultural economic updates, 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 appreciates the amendments made in the SD 1.

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 Office of Planning defers to the Department of Agriculture regarding the financing of updating the State Agricultural Functional Plan to include among other agricultural economic updates, 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  
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**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2021  
8:30 A.M.  
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**SENATE BILL NO. 1344, SD 2  
RELATING TO FOOD SUSTAINABILITY**

Chairperson Tarnas and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 1344, SD 2. This bill requires the Department of Agriculture (Department) in coordination with the Office of Planning to prepare and periodically update the State Agriculture Functional Plan to include other agricultural economic updates and seafood sustainability that expands the State's priority on food by including wild seafood as a viable food source. The updated Functional Plan is to be submitted prior to the convening of the 2023 Legislature. The Department has concerns and offers recommendations 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 and leadership by an agency well-versed in matters involving wild caught seafood such as the Division of Aquatic Resources within the Department of Land and Natural Resources. Our expertise and regulatory authority with regards to fish and seafood is limited to net-pen aquaculture and other farm-raised seafood.

With respect to undertaking a revision of the State Agriculture Functional Plan to incorporate seafood sustainability, the Department notes that Section 226-55 governs the updates of the Functional Plans and describes a comprehensive and deliberate process:



**"§226-55 Functional plans; preparation;**

**update.** (a) The state agency head primarily responsible for a given functional area shall prepare and periodically update the functional plan for the area. In the preparation or update of the functional plan, the state agency head shall work in close cooperation with the advisory committee, respective officials, and people of each county. In the formulation of the initial or updated functional plan, the preparing agency shall solicit public views and concerns. The formulation and revision of a state functional plan shall conform to the provisions of this chapter and shall take into consideration the county general plans. Functional plans and any revisions thereto shall be accepted by the governor to serve as guidelines for funding requests and implementation by state and county agencies.

(b) The functional plan shall identify priority issues in the functional area and shall contain objectives, policies, and implementing actions to address those priority issues. Actions may include organizational or management initiatives, facility or physical infrastructure development initiatives, initiatives for programs and services, or legislative proposals.

(c) For each functional plan, the lead state agency, with the concurrence of the governor, shall establish an advisory committee, where an advisory body which meets the criteria set out hereunder is not already in existence, whose membership shall be composed of at least one public official from each county; members of the public; experts in the field for which a functional plan is being prepared; and state officials. The advisory committee shall advise the lead state agency in preparing, implementing, monitoring, and updating the functional plan to be in conformance with the overall theme, goals, objectives, policies, and priority guidelines contained within this chapter. The draft functional plan shall be submitted to relevant federal, state, and county agencies for review and input. The advisory committee shall serve as a temporary advisory body to the state agency responsible for preparing each respective functional plan. The terms of members from

the public and experts in the field for which a functional plan is prepared shall be for four years. Each term shall commence on July 1 and expire on June 30. No member from the public or expert in the field shall be appointed consecutively to more than two terms. These appointments shall not be subject to senate confirmation, and shall be exempt from sections 26-34(a) and 78-4(a) regarding the appointment to boards and commissions."

Notwithstanding the testimony of other parties, the Department strongly cautions that the revision of the existing State Agriculture Functional Plan (that was accepted by the Governor in 1991) to include "seafood sustainability" in the manner described in the measure (page 2, lines 8-10) and to include "other agricultural economic updates" will be a time-consuming exercise that will require a considerable commitment of resources both within and beyond the Department. For instance, the process that led to the 1991 Agriculture Functional Plan took over 10 years before the Technical Advisory Committee agreed to its contents. Further, there are twelve total State Functional Plans and only the Housing Functional Plan (2017) has been updated since their initial adoption in 1989 and additional revisions for seven of the plans through 1991.

The Department strongly recommends that the measure be revised to delete the update of the State Agriculture Functional Plan and focus on the gathering of data and information by an agency such as the Division of Aquatic Resources for open-ocean "wild seafood", pursuant to tasks (2) and (3) in the bill (Page 1, line 14 to page 2, line 5), if this data and information does not already exist. This may lead to a data/information-based assessment of the utility and practicality of "classifying and regulating wild seafood as a food commodity in the State" (Bill, page 2, task (4), lines 6-7).

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



# Food+ Policy Internship 2021

[food@purplemaia.org](mailto:food@purplemaia.org)

March 16, 2021

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

Subject: Testimony in Support of SB1344, Relating to Food Sustainability

Aloha mai kākou,

My name is Brian "Ioane" Jahn and I am writing on behalf of the UH West Oahu Food+ Policy Internship to express our collective and unequivocal support for SB1344, Relating to Food Sustainability.

SB1344 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.

Seafood is a staple food of Hawai'i people, which may otherwise be known as a "culturally appropriate food." According to Loke et al. (2012), Hawai'i residents spend \$133 million annually on seafood for home consumption, and \$275 million annually at restaurants. In 2005, a total of \$664 million was spent on seafood by residents and visitors combined (Loke et al., 2012). Despite these overwhelming statistics on local fish consumption, there has never been an inclusion of wild-caught fish and seafood in Hawai'i's food self-sufficiency plan; fish and seafood were nutrition sources found to be absent from Hawai'i's 2012 publication: *INCREASED FOOD SECURITY AND FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY STRATEGY*.

There are many residents and fishers who have wanted this consumption to be considered for several reasons beneficial to Hawai'i. This will bring fishers and aquaculture practitioners closer together, create more retail and wholesale data on wild seafood purchasing, create more data on wild seafood's role as it relates to Hawai'i food self-sufficiency, and help classify and regulate wild seafood as a Hawai'i food commodity.

**The Food+ Policy internship** develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2021, the pilot cohort of interns are juniors, seniors, and recent graduates of the University of Hawai'i West O'ahu's Sustainable Community Food Systems program. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, and Hawaiian culture.



# Food+ Policy Internship 2021

[food@purplemaia.org](mailto:food@purplemaia.org)

Overall, this will help our communities to become far more resilient as our dependency upon outside sources for food is lessened. Related effects of more self-sufficient food systems include access to safer seafoods, decreased carbon emissions associated with shipping food to Hawai'i, enhanced community interaction on several levels, and a greater awareness of how precious our oceans and ocean resources are to our way of life.

On behalf of the Hawai'i Food+ Policy Internship, I would like to thank Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Branco, and Members of the House Committee on Water & Land for considering the comments made herein.

Mahalo,

Ioane & the Food+ Interns

## Sources

\_\_\_\_\_. Loke, M. K., Geslani, C., Takenaka, B., & Leung, P. (2012). Seafood consumption and supply sources in Hawaii, 2000-2009. *Marine Fisheries Review*, 74(4), 44-51.

United States, Department of Agriculture, Planning Department of Business Economic Development & Tourism. (2012). *INCREASED FOOD SECURITY AND FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY STRATEGY*. Honolulu, HI: Office of Planning.

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March 16, 2021

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

DATE: Thursday, March 18, 2021

TIME: 8:30 a.m.

PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Regarding: SB1344 SD2 RELATING TO FOOD SUSTAINABILITY

**STRONGLY SUPPORT** SB1344 SD2 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** SB 1344 SD2 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 SB 1344 SD2 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.

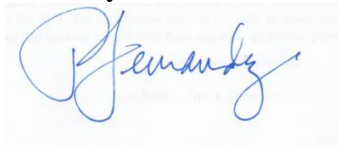
In 2017, sustainability and self-sufficiency discussions focused on agriculture and omitted the **state’s largest food producing entity, *which is fishing***. Hawaii’s commercial fishing vessels land about \$110 million of seafood. Eighty to 90 percent of the locally caught fish stay in our islands as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



House Committee on Water & Land  
March 18, 2021 8:30 am

## SB 1344, SD2: Relating to Food Sustainability

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Branco, and members of the Committee, my name is Brooks Takenaka, General Manager of the United Fishing Agency, Ltd., aka the Honolulu Fish Auction.

**We support the intent of SB 1344, SD2**, to include seafood sustainability into an updated agricultural functional plan where the Department of Agriculture in coordination with the Office of Planning will prepare and update the “agricultural functional plan”.

We do, however, have concerns i.e.,

- The sustainability and management of commercially caught wild seafood are under NOAA’s National Marine Fisheries Service jurisdiction. Currently there are mechanisms in place where daily fish auction sales data are forwarded to National Marine Fisheries Service and subsequently to the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Aquatic Resources; and
- Classifying and regulating wild seafood as a “food commodity” in Hawaii and its implications upon the fishing industry;

Although this will be a major undertaking due the requirements of a “functional plan”, we look forward to a collaborative effort in addressing wild seafood as contributing to Hawaii’s food self-sufficiency.

Mahalo for allowing us to share our viewpoint and ask for your favorable consideration.

SB1344 SD2: Testimony in SUPPORT

The Hawaii Seafood Council (HSC) supports the intent of SB 1344 SD 2. 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 why the impacts on seafood imports into the state are not included. It seems that this would be required to understand self-sufficiency in seafood production in 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



# **FISHING TALES**

with **Mike  
Sakamoto**

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways & Means  
March 18, 2021  
Via Videoconference

Testimony in support of SB 1344, 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 SB 1344, 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.

**SB-1344-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 10:07:41 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/18/2021 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kelsey Amos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Seafood should be a part of our food sustainability plans

**SB-1344-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 9:50:01 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/18/2021 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Brian Jahn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai,

I am writing to express my full support for SB1344. Seafood is a huge aspect of Hawai'i food consumption and should definitely be considered when discussing food sustainability and local economies within the food system. Mahalo for taking the time to consider this testimony.

Me ke aloha,

Brian "loane" Jahn

**SB-1344-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 12:14:37 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/18/2021 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Joan Lander	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this bill. We need to do everything possible to increase taro production.

**SB-1344-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 6:09:58 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/18/2021 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gene Ross K. Davis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support bill # 1344.

Mahalo nui. Gene Ross

**SB-1344-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 7:14:11 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/18/2021 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Meredith Buck	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB1344 as a strong step in the right direction toward food sovereignty and sustainability in Hawai'i. Mahalo nui for your time and consideration.



**SB-1344-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 9:34:26 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/18/2021 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo. I'm from Papakāleia, O'ahu currently residing in Māhili. I'm writing in support of SB1344.

This bill requires the department of agriculture, in coordination with the office of planning, to prepare and periodically update the state agriculture functional plan for seafood sustainability that expands the State's priority on food by including wild seafood as a viable food source.

You all should support this bill because seafood is an important part of Hawaii's food self-sufficiency and food security. It establishes a functional seafood sustainability plan that is necessary to provide food for the people of Hawai'i while ensuring the conservation of resources.

Support SB1344.

me ke aloha 'Āina,

Nanea Lo

**SB-1344-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 10:50:16 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/18/2021 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Chloe Amos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We need to gather more information about how much of our population can be fed through wild fishing that is already occurring, so that those practices can be monitored for maximum sustainability. On an island, we should absolutely be prioritizing our seafood as a vital food source that should always be revered, protected, and extremely well understood. I believe passing this bill would be a positive step in that direction.

**SB-1344-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 11:09:13 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/18/2021 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jason Medina	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Wild seafood should be a part of our diet, and having the department of agriculture represent this cause makes me feel it will be taken more seriously. It can improve the food economy and be a viable source of nutrition for the lahui.

Mahalo,

Jason Medina

**SB-1344-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 2:54:47 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/18/2021 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
maria kalai denzer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hawai'i needs to consider the future as we eat everyday and feed plenty tourists. We need to hold ourselves accountable in keeping a good relationship with the land and sea.

**SB-1344-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 10:55:11 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/18/2021 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sydney Millerd	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Sydney Millerd and I am writing to express support for SB1344. As a student of the

University of Hawaii - West Oahu's Sustainable Community Food Systems program, I understand the importance of food self-sufficiency and security. With the ocean all around us, it makes sense to utilize our ocean resources to feed our community. Thus, this measure would support this.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony.