

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2643

Honolulu, Hawaii

**FEB 18 2022**

RE: S.B. No. 2023  
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirty-First State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2022  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Water and Land and Agriculture and Environment, to which was referred S.B. No. 2023 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HAWAIIAN FISHPONDS,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to require the Department of Land and Natural Resources to utilize the current state-of-the-art knowledge in marine finfish hatchery production to establish a functional system to provide pua ama and pua awa to stock loko ia.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from Food+ Policy Internship 2022, Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo, and two individuals. Your Committees received comments on this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Your Committees find that loko ia (Hawaiian fishponds) are part of advanced food systems that optimize natural watersheds, nutrient cycles, and fish biology and represent one of the world's most significant and successful aquacultural achievements. The dramatic decline in the number of loko ia and the average yield of those remaining are attributed to various factors including competition from cheaper imported products, money replacing barter as the standards of exchange, population movement from rural to urban areas, loss of traditional loko ia management skills, and the availability of alternative sources of employment.



Additionally, forces of nature, such as lava flows, tsunami and sea storms, land erosion, vegetation encroachment, and eutrophication have contributed to the destruction of Hawaiian loko ia. The historic loss of loko ia played a tragic role in furthering food inequity in Hawaii and points to the need to reinvigorate efforts to get ponds in operation.

Presently, hatchery production is the best option to restore loko ia productivity and access to hatchery-raised pua has been identified as a pivotal need. State and federal funded research between the 1970s and 1980s examined hatchery production of amaama and demonstrated successful maturation, spawning, and rearing of amaama through larval stage. Similar success with awa showed the potential role hatchery-raised pua could have for restocking efforts. Prioritizing loko ia restoration and revitalization is an active step towards improving food systems and reducing hunger and increasing responsible consumption and production patterns. Restoration addresses the food security challenges of being an isolated island community.

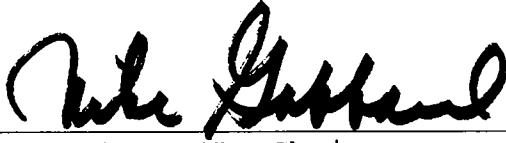
Your Committees have heard concerns from the Department of Land and Natural Resources regarding appropriations for loko ia. This measure, as drafted, does not contain appropriation language that will allow the Department of Land and Natural Resources to expand and develop its knowledge and practices of marine finfish hatchery production to address the decline of loko ia. To address the concerns of the Department, your Committees have amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting a blank appropriation for the hiring of staff or contractors with expertise in finfish hatchery production, purchasing of equipment and supplies, and training workshops for loko ia across the State and by the Department of Land and Natural Resources;
- (2) Inserting an effective date of July 1, 2050, to encourage further discussion; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

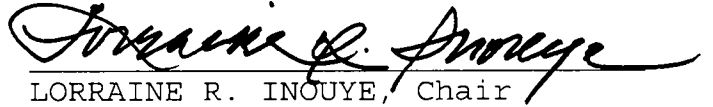


As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Water and Land and Agriculture and Environment that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2023, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2023, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Judiciary.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committees on Water and Land and Agriculture and Environment,



MIKE GABBARD, Chair



LORRAINE R. INOUYE, Chair



The Senate  
 Thirty-First Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

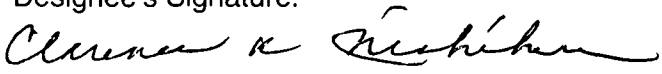
**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Water and Land**  
**WTL**

Bill / Resolution No.:* <i>SB 2023</i>	Committee Referral: <i>WTL/AEN, JDC</i>	Date: <i>2/16/22</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
INOUYE, Lorraine R. (C)	✓			
KEITH-AGARAN, Gilbert S.C. (VC)	✓			
MISALUCHA, Bennette E.	✓			
RIVIERE, Gil	✓			
FEVELLA, Kurt	✓			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<i>5</i>			
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <div style="text-align:center;"><i>Bennette E. Misalucha</i></div>				
Distribution:             Original             Yellow             Pink             Goldenrod File with Committee Report             Clerk's Office             Drafting Agency             Committee File Copy				

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes

The Senate  
 Thirty-First Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Agriculture and Environment**  
**AEN**

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SB 2023	WTL (AEN), JDL	02/16/22		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311	<input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313		
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
GABBARD, Mike (C)	/			
NISHIHARA, Clarence K. (VC)	/			
ACASIO, Laura	/			
RHOADS, Karl	/			
FEVELLA, Kurt	/			
<b>TOTAL</b>	5	—	—	—
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted. <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
				
Distribution:				
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