

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
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TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE
BEFORE THE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
FEBRUARY 11, 2022
9:45 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 325 & VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
HOUSE BILL NO. 1812
RELATING TO THE NATURAL ENERGY LABORATORY OF HAWAII AUTHORITY

Chairpersons Hashem and Quinlan and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1812. The bill clarifies that the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority's (NELHA) duties include supporting aquaculture. The Department supports this bill.

While NELHA currently manages aquaculture tenants and supports aquaculture industry development, this policy could change depending on economic or political shifts. The proposed language would create an explicit relationship with aquaculture and signal to the industry that NELHA will continue to support aquaculture into the future.

As such, the Department supports this measure.





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February 11 2, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB HB 1812
RELATING TO THE NATURAL ENERGY LABORATORY OF HAWAII AUTHORITY

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
9:45 AM

Aloha Chairs Hashem and Quinlan, Vice-Chairs Perruso and Holt, and Members of the Committees:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports HB 1812, which clarifies that the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority's duties include supporting aquaculture.

Hawaii's aquaculture industry farm gate value is \$74,000,000, the fifth-highest contribution to the economy in diversified agriculture. Hawaii's favorable climate and geography allow for inherent advantages benefitting aquaculture production.

The Legislature acknowledged the importance of Hawaii's aquaculture industry by revitalizing the Aquaculture Development Program through Act 63, SLH 2019. However, more investment and research into the aquaculture industry is needed, including investment and research into different types of aquaculture, aquaculture system optimization, economic implications of various methods of aquaculture production.

NELHA is an exceptional facility that features an ideal climate, access to cold deep-ocean water and warm surface water, and the opportunity to interact with experts in aquaculture biology, engineering, and finance. Successful NELHA businesses will help to grow Hawaii's aquaculture industry, bringing in investment, producing high-quality seafood, and increasing employment.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

HB-1812

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 6:20:16 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/11/2022 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ronald Weidenbach	Hawaii Aquaculture & Aquaponics Association	Support	No

Comments:

The HAAA supports this measure which provides de facto clarification of more than 30 years of aquaculture tenancies at NELHA, but best to have this clearly specified in statute in case of some future legal challenge.



NATURAL ENERGY LABORATORY OF HAWAII AUTHORITY

An Authority of the State of Hawaii attached to the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism

Statement of
Gregory P. Barbour
Executive Director

Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority
before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
and the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Friday, February 11, 2022
9:45 am

State Capitol, Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

in consideration of

HB 1812
RELATING TO THE NATURAL ENERGY LABORATORY OF HAWAII AUTHORITY.

The Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority (NELHA) supports HB 1812 which amends Section 227D-2 Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) by adding specific language regarding the support of research, development, and commercialization of aquaculture.

After considerable research our review, of previous legislation and current statutes in Section 227-D HRS are very broad with respect to economic development. All the existing projects here do comply with our statutes. Adding aquaculture to our statutes will only serve to clarify our mission further.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.