

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
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Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on  
FINANCE

Monday, February 28, 2022  
12:30 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 308, Via Videoconference

In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 2199, HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO FISHPONDS

House Bill 2199, House Draft 1 proposes to appropriate funds to support the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) in restoring and restocking fishponds. **The Department supports this bill, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget request.**

Loko i'a, Hawaiian fishponds, are unique aquaculture systems throughout Hawaii and are important components of the ahupua'a (traditional land stewardship framework) that contribute to a healthy, sustainable, and robust food system. Fishponds and aquaculture can provide a sustainable source of local-grown fish for Hawaii residents. Production of fingerlings for grow-out can take pressure off nearshore fish stocks which can be a conservation tool for managing fisheries. At a broader level, fishponds can increase local food production, improve food security, perpetuate local and traditional practices, and provide employment opportunities for Hawaii residents.

The Legislature has given the Department the authority and mandate to establish aquatic life propagating stations and to distribute aquatic life for the purpose of increasing the food supply of the State.<sup>1</sup> This bill would provide the resources needed to carry out this function. The

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<sup>1</sup> Section 187A-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, states that the Department shall:

- (2) Establish and maintain aquatic life propagating station or stations; and
- (5) Distribute, free of charge, as the department deems to be in the public interest, aquatic life, for the purpose of increasing the food supply of the State; provided that when, in the discretion of the department, the public interest shall not be materially interfered with by so doing, the department may propagate and furnish aquatic life to private parties, upon such reasonable terms, conditions, and prices determined by the department.

SUZANNE D. CASE  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA  
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

Department estimates that an appropriation of \$300,000 for FY22-23 will be adequate to provide fingerlings and limu for restoration and restocking of fishponds and establish an aquaculture coordinator position within the Department to oversee operations.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

**HB-2199-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 11:32:32 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2022 12:30:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Remote Testimony Requested</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| David Sakoda        | DLNR                | Support                   | Yes                               |

Comments:

I am available for questions to DLNR. Please allow me Zoom access.

**HB-2199-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 11:58:31 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2022 12:30:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Remote Testimony Requested</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Suzanne D. Case     | DLNR                | Support                   | Yes                               |

Comments:

I am available for questions to DLNR. Please allow me Zoom access.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND  
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**  
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ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE  
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MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION  
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

**WRITTEN ONLY**  
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
ON  
HOUSE BILL NO. 2199, H.D. 1

**February 28, 2022**  
**12:30 p.m.**  
**Room 308 and Videoconference**

**RELATING TO FISHPONDS**

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

House Bill No. 2199, H.D. 1, appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds for FY 23 and establishes one full-time Aquaculture Coordinator Biologist VI position for the Department of Land and Natural Resources to provide fingerlings and limu to restore and restock fishponds.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.