

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
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EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
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 WATER & LAND
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 2199

February 10, 2022
8:30 a.m.
Room 430 and Videoconference

RELATING TO FISHPONDS

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

House Bill No. 2199 appropriates \$300,000 in general funds for FY 23 and establishes one full-time Aquaculture Coordinator Biologist VI position for the Department of Land and Natural Resources' hatchery program to provide fingerlings 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.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
WATER & LAND**

**Thursday, February 10, 2022
8:30 AM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 430, Via Videoconference

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2199
RELATING TO FISHPONDS**

House Bill 2199 proposes to appropriate funds to support the Department of Land and Natural Resources' (Department's) hatchery program. **The Department supports this bill, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget request, and offers the following comments and suggested amendments.**

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.¹ This bill would provide the resources needed to carry out this function. The Department suggests a couple minor amendments to provide greater flexibility in assisting loko i'a restoration efforts.

¹ 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

The Department recommends changing the recipient of the funds from the Department's "hatchery program" to "the Department." This would avoid any confusion regarding what specific project or program the "hatchery program" refers to and ensures that the Department has discretion to allocate resources efficiently to accomplish the intent of the measure.

The Department also recommends expanding the types of resources to be produced for restoration and restocking of fishponds to include limu. The Department is currently working with some fishponds and practitioners to culture limu for restoration and outplanting efforts. Limu was and is an important source of food and nutrition, as well as an important cultural resource for many communities, and there are ongoing efforts to restore native limu and revive harvesting practices. Including limu along with fingerlings would provide the Department with flexibility to assist a wider range of loko i'a restoration efforts.

The Department proposes that SECTION 2 be amended to read (suggested amendments highlighted in yellow):

SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$300,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the department of land and natural resources [~~' hatchery program~~] to:

- (1) Provide fingerlings and limu for restoration and restocking of fishponds; and
- (2) Establish one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) aquaculture coordinator biologist VI position.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



Testimony Before The
House Committee on Water and Land
IN SUPPORT OF HB 2199
Thursday, February 10, 2022, 8:30AM, Room 430

My name is Kevin Chang and I am the Executive Director of [Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo \(or KUA\)](#). KUA works to empower grassroots rural and Native Hawaiian mālama 'āina groups to celebrate their places and pass on their traditions to better Hawai'i and achieve 'āina momona— an abundant, productive ecological system that supports community well-being.

KUA employs a community-driven approach that currently supports a statewide network of 36 mālama 'āina community groups collectively referred to as E Alu Pū (moving forward together), 40 fishpond projects and practitioners called the Hui Mālama Loko I'a, and a growing group of over 60 Limu practitioners and supporters called the Limu Hui. Participants in our networks have had long term dreams of bringing fishponds, food fish and limu back to our shorelines and dinner tables.

KUA supports HB 2199 as an incremental step on a pathway towards 'āina momona.

Would appropriate \$300,000.00 the department of land and natural resources' hatchery program to:

- (1) Provide fingerlings for restoration and restocking of fishponds; and
- (2) Establish one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) aquaculture coordinator biologist VI Position.

KUA's coordinators and network participants in all three of our networks have built stronger connections to the DLNR-DAR and the aquaculture community knowing very well that to reach a vision of greater food self-sufficiency we need to transform our culture, values and institutions together. Supporting a DLNR role in producing fingerlings for restorative aquaculture would directly address one of the recommendations in the 1993 Report of the Governor's Task Force on Moloka'i Fishpond Restoration. This report was published nearly 30 years ago, but many of its findings are still relevant and indeed, important to fishponds on most other islands in Hawai'i in addition to Moloka'i; a [Loko I'a Needs Assessment](#) finalized in November 2020 reiterated the continued interest in contemporary aquaculture technology to support fishpond revitalization. We acknowledge the existing resources and technical capacity within DLNR-DAR's existing hatchery program and encourage this proposed further support to build towards that vision of 'āina momona.

Importantly, the 1993 report recommended that "the State of Hawai'i...actively support and help fund the development of a hatchery to provide seedstock for fishponds and stock enhancement of the reefs." Many practitioners envision a future when loko i'a can be stocked again from natural populations of prized species such as 'anae, but since those fisheries are depleted in many areas across Hawai'i, hatchery-raised fingerlings are an important component of the restoration efforts for loko i'a and their surrounding waters. In our conversations with the Hui Mālama Loko I'a, practitioners from 24 loko i'a on 5 different islands have indicated this opinion in the past several years. Then looking beyond the boundaries of the walls, loko i'a themselves are key assets to restocking the wild fishery by serving as enhanced nursery areas.

Indeed, as we look to the future our communities are raising the kupa'āina who want to have jobs focused on mālama 'āina. I am sure some of the submitted applications that recently inundated and exceeded the capacity of the DOCARE Academy enrollment portal came from these kinds of young people. We appreciate creative and collaborative approaches that build the capacity and skills of the next generation with intention, and in a way that benefits ongoing community efforts at loko i'a as a catalyst for ecosystem regeneration.

The communities we work with are committed to ensuring the long-term health of our biocultural resources. They have depended on them for generations. We believe our environment, the foundation of our very existence, is about long-term investment and a vision of 'āina momona. To get there it requires among other things taking the steps toward greater self-sufficiency, development of a pipeline of new and more innovative career pathways, mindsets, relationships and resource flows for mālama 'āina. Passing this bill out of your committee will open a pathway toward reaching this vision.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in support.

Aloha 'Āina Momona.

HB-2199

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 9:55:55 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2022 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Beth Anderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Supporting loko i'a is vital to ensuring food security/sustainability in our state. Fishponds once fed thousands in Hawaii and they can do so again. These are important archaeological features that must be restored and preserved because of their cultural, historical significance, as well as the positive ecological functions fishponds provide as part of our watersheds.

I completely support funds for fishpond hatcheries, but hope more funds will be allocated for restoration of fishponds. The largest wetland in our state, Kawainui Marsh in Kailua, once held a fishpond that fed thousands, but it remains neglected and in severely degraded, polluted condition despite the existence of a master plan to restore it. Please allocate funds to DLNR to restore Kawainui and its fishponds and kalo growing areas. The wetlands and birdponds of Hamakua Marsh, sister marsh of Kawainui was beautifully restored, now it is time for Kawainui.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify and thank you for introducing this bill.

Beth Anderson

HB-2199

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 12:09:17 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2022 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kimeona Kane	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha nui,

Kimeona Kane, ‘O Pāhonu ku‘u loko ma Waimānalo nei. I am a kia‘i loko i‘a, a Kumu Uhau Humu Pōhaku who studied under Kumu Kinohi Pizzaro of Paepae o Heeia, who studied under Kumu Peleke Flores of Alekoko. We are rock weavers who have made rock our lifeway. The weaving of these rockes help to restore the many loko i‘a across the pae ‘āina, and gives us the skillsets necessary to build new ones. What are fishponds without those who weave their walls? What are fishponds without the fish stock in which feeds and sustains us? What is a fishpond without the ability to exist where the wai and kai create? These things go hand in hand and are dependent on eachother. I am here to support strongly this bill which will allow us to get one step closer to leaving our keiki and future generations, something that will sustain them. These fish hatcheries are a critical piece to food sustainability and sovereignty after years of pillaging and mismanagement. The hatcharies would have existed in the surrounding loko i‘a, as pua ponds, where our kupuna managed every aspect of life, while utlizing key kilo skills to ensure that alignments were in place. We must put these fish back into ponds. We must restore the ponds. We must teach our keiki how to maintain these ponds. We must give our communiites a chance to thrive. It is within our capability to act in a way that ensures that the next 8 generations, can fish, can be fed, and can perpetuate these life ways.

E ‘olu‘olu, please pass this HB 2199.

Me ka ha‘aha‘a,
Kimeona Kane

HB-2199

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 3:37:12 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2022 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Makanoe Hufana	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB2199.

Mahalo

Makanoe Hufana