

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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2021
9:30 A.M.
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**SENATE BILL NO. 1344, SD 1
RELATING TO FOOD SUSTAINABILITY**

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 1344, SD 1. 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.

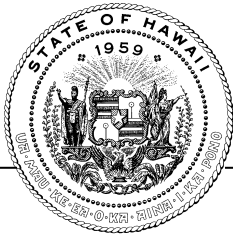
(c) For each functional plan, the lead state agency, with the concurrence of the governor, shall establish an advisory committee, where an advisory body which meets the criteria set out hereunder is not already in existence, whose membership shall be composed of at least one public official from each 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 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 7-9) 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 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 4), 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 5-6).

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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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
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Tuesday, March 2, 2021
9:30 AM
State Capitol

in consideration of
SB 1344, SD 1
RELATING TO FOOD SUSTAINABILITY.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee:

SB 1344, SD 1 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.

SB-1344-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 3:30:31 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James Silva	Testifying for Waialua Boat Club	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill

SB-1344-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 9:25:11 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jim Hori, DDS	Testifying for Lokahi Fishing, LLC	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB1344 because it is about time that wild caught Hawaiian Seafood be recognized as an important sustainable source of food like agriculture! Having the Dept of Agriculture researching seafood and coming up with a plan is a great start.

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
March 2, 2021 9:30 am

SB 1344, SD1: Relating to Food Sustainability

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, 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, SD1 to include seafood sustainability into an updated agricultural functional plan where the Office of Planning will coordinate with the Department of Agriculture.

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;

We look forward to a collaborative effort on this functional plan and its objectives.

Mahalo for allowing us to share our viewpoint.



Food+ Policy Internship 2021

food@purplemaia.org

February 28, 2021

To: Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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,

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

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.

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 Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means for considering the comments made herein.

Mahalo,
Brian "loane" Jahn & 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.

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.

SB-1344-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 2:54:16 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Juanita Brown Kawamoto	Testifying for Hawaiian Affairs Caucus of the DPH	Support	No

Comments:

HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS CAUCUS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII

FEBRUARY 28, 2021

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 1344

Aloha Committee on Ways and Means - Honorable Senators
Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

The Hawaiian Affairs Caucus of the DPH strongly supports the passage of SB 1344. The Native Hawaiian community has practiced for thousands of years the sustainability of a healthy and responsible balance of the land, water and the sea. The Hawaiian eco systems were about nature's balance through the preservation and conservation by the first people - Native Hawaiians whose cultural-historical fisheries were properly managed by Native Hawaiian Konohiki. The intent of this bill can truly succeed if we maintain the Native Hawaiian Historical cultural practices of diversity, seasonal processes, ecological protection and attention to the entire ocean eco system of our Hawaiian waters. As long as we maintain a healthy seafood sustainability program that is directed to feed the people of Hawaii the Hawaiian Affairs Caucus of the DPH should support this bill.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Juanita Mahienaena Brown Kawamoto
Luna Hoomalu
Hawaiian Affairs Caucus
Democratic Party of Hawaii

SB-1344-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 8:16:57 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Walter Ritte	Testifying for aina momona	Support	No

Comments:

Aina momona is in strong support of sb 1344. We are not only farmers of the aina, but also farmers of the sea. As an example, the state of Hawaii owns 27 fishponds on the island of Molokai alone.



FISHING TALES

with **Mike
Sakamoto**

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways & Means
Tuesday, March 2, 2021
Via Videoconference

LATE

Testimony in support of SB 1344, Relating to Food Sustainability

To: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Gil Keith-Agaran, 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.



March 1, 2021

THE THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2021

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

DATE: Tuesday, March 2, 2021

TIME: 9:30AM

PLACE: Conference Room 211 & Videoconference Regarding:

SB1344 SD1 RELATING TO FOOD SUSTAINABILITY

LATE

STRONGLY SUPPORT SB1344 SD1 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 SD1 Relating to Food Sustainability

During the current legislative session, there has been strong support for SB1344. It is clear that the public wants to have the Department of Agriculture and the Office of Planning to co-lead an effort to work toward a seafood sustainability plan.

HFACT recognizes that the effort will be a long and arduous journey, but it has to start by taking the first step. This first step is for the legislature to approve this bill.

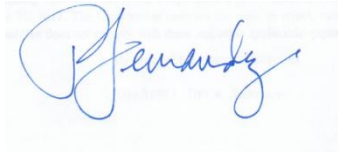
A partnership across state departments and well as with non-state organizations is recognized as a key to successfully tackling the tasks outlined in SB1344. HFACT stands ready to assist the state in this regard.

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.

Hawai'i Fishermen's Alliance for Conservation and Tradition, Inc.
75-796 Hiona Street, Holualoa HI 96725

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Phil Fernandez", is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Phil Fernandez
President

SB-1344-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2021 7:59:51 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William K. Chang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill

SB-1344-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2021 8:49:55 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ron Dellinger	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB1344. It's common sense, enough said!

SB-1344-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 7:37:32 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian F. Funai	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strong Support

SB-1344-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 9:27:28 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gary P. Beals	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a fisherman in Hawaii for over 50 years, recreational, commercial and longline, I strongly support this bill.

Gary P. Beals

SB-1344-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 3:06:13 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelsey Amos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support

SB-1344-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 5:47:01 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ronald Tam	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Fully support. Formal recognition of wild seafood as a food source and planning to ensure sustainability thereof are long, long overdue.

SB-1344-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 7:30:32 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo. I'm from Papakāleia, O'ahu now residing in Māhili in my ancestral homelands. I'm writing in support of SB1344 because seafood is an important part of Hawaii's food self-sufficiency and food security.

Establishing a functional seafood sustainability plan is dire to providing food to the people and communities of Hawai'i while ensuring the conservation of resources here in our delicate ecosystems.

Support this bill.

me ke aloha 'Āina,

Nanea Lo

SB-1344-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 5:33:48 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Jahn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai,

My name is Brian "loane" Jahn, I live in Wahiawa, Kukaniloko, O'ahu, and I strongly support this bill. Seafood is a major component in Hawai'i's food system and should be significantly considered when providing a plan for sustainability. I urge the committee to pass SB1344, mahalo.

Me ke aloha,

Brian "loane" Jahn

SB-1344-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 6:32:57 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
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.

SB-1344-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 9:19:19 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keke Manera	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**I fully support this bill and you should too. Hawaii needs this more than ever.
Mahalo**

SB-1344-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 3:11:59 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Juanita Brown Kawamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT SB1344 SD1

Hawaii can sustain an ecologically pono seafood sustainable program as Native Hawaiians have practiced for thousands of years - by maintaining a balance with healthy, diverse, organic methods that the people of Hawaii protect and preserve "for" the people of Hawaii and their generations to come.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Juanita Mahienaena Brown Kawamoto

Proud Akina-Smith ohana of generational Native Hawaiian fishermen of Kihei, Maui

SB-1344-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 8:44:49 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jacob B Shearer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hawai'i's lands and seas are our best chance for real food security and self-sufficiency. As we plan out our future in these regards, it's important to create effective plans and work towards goals as we do with agricultural production. For centuries, Hawai'i's seas and fish ponds produced good wholesome food for generations. Today, we should seek to include wild seafood in the state's food security plans not only to provide wholesome food to our communities, but also to secure the traditional cultural practices that uphold its production.

Mahalo.

SB-1344-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 4:00:58 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members,

Please support SB1344.

Thank you,

Andrea Quinn