

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

FEBRUARY 22, 2023
2:30 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 308

HOUSE BILL NO. 694
RELATING TO RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chairperson Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 694. The bill appropriates funds to support the Aquaculture Disease Diagnostic Laboratory at the Department of Agriculture Animal Industry Division Veterinary Laboratory Services Branch, in partnership with the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture. The Department supports this bill.

The Department estimates personnel costs at \$500,000 for 2 Microbiologist III staff, equipment and operations annually. The current personnel costs for the State Aquaculture Veterinarian Position is approximately \$150,000, annually. The renovation costs for PCR testing are estimated to be \$450,000. The total request for this measure would be \$1,100,000.

The Department supports this measure, provided it does not impact the Department's priorities identified in the Executive Budget request. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





House Committee on Finance
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair, Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
Wednesday, February 22, 2023, 2:30 PM
Via Videoconference, Conference Room 308

Re: HB694 HD1 Relating to Aquaculture

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Aquaculture and Aquaponics Association (HAAA) representing aquaculture industry members, researchers, and supporters Statewide strongly supports HB 694 HD1 which appropriates critical funds to support and staff the Aquaculture Disease Diagnostic Laboratory at the State Veterinary Building in the Department of Agriculture (DOA) Animal Industry Division, Veterinary Laboratory Services Branch, in partnership with the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR).

This Aquaculture Disease Diagnostic Laboratory is critical to the continued development and expansion of all segments of the Hawaii aquaculture industry. As such, the HAAA respectfully requests your strong support of HB 694 HD1 in its entirety, as current written. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Sincerely,

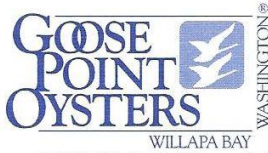
Ron Weidenbach
HAAA President

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2/21/2023

TO: Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair; and Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

House Committee on Finance

Wednesday, February 22, 2023 @ 2:30 p.m. via Videoconference or in Room 308

**RE: SUPPORT FOR HOUSE BILL 694, HD 1 RELATING TO AQUACULTURE –
APPROPRIATES FUNDS TO SUPPORT THE AQUACULTURE DISEASE DIAGNOSTIC LAB
AT UH**

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Brian Koval and I am the Hatchery Manager for Hawaiian Shellfish LLC based out of Keaau on the Island of Hawaii and we strongly support HB 694, HD 1: Appropriates funds to support the aquaculture disease diagnostic lab at UH. We currently send all of our samples to Washington for disease diagnostics but that is the only option available right now and it would be prudent to have another site, preferably local.

We have been operating on the Big Island since 2009 and employ 15 local workers. We produce seed and larvae for shellfish farms on the west coast of the USA as well as Hawaii. We send about 9 samples a year for disease testing and would like to have an option close to our operation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this measure.

Sincerely,
Brian Koval
Hatchery Manager, Hawaiian Shellfish LLC



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 22, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 694, HD1
RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Conference Room 308 & Videoconference
2:30 PM

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

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

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau strongly supports HB 694, HD1 and respectfully requests a clarification on the bill which appropriates funds to support the aquaculture disease diagnostic laboratory at the department of agriculture animal industry division veterinary laboratory services branch, in partnership with the University of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture.

The Legislature has acknowledged the importance of Hawai'i's aquaculture industry and recognizes that supporting local aquacultural production can help the State move toward greater food sustainability and economic diversification. Hawai'i's aquaculture industry continues to be one of the fastest-growing segments of Hawai'i agriculture and has become an important source of seafood and other products for local sale and export. Currently, Hawai'i imports about 63 percent of its seafood.

HB 694, HD1 is a much-needed measure to provide essential support to Hawai'i's diverse aquaculture industry and we look forward to its passage and the benefits it will bring to aquaculture production.

HFB respectfully requests that the bill be amended to make clear that allocation of the funds includes support for the broader aquaculture industry, not only to support the marine shrimp broodstock, koi, and oyster export industries.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

HB-694-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 12:44:21 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Corbin	Aquaculture Planning and Advocacy	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is John Corbin and I strongly support passage of HB 694 HD 1.

Previously I managed the State Aquaculture Development Program from 1978 to 2006, when I retired. Having had oversight of the Aquaculture Disease Diagnosis and Prevention Program as it was called then, I can testify that having a qualified Aquatic Veterinarian, supported by a modern, well equipped Laboratory, is a cornerstone of a successful and growing commercial aquaculture industry. Continuing this important capability under the Department of Agriculture, Animal Industry Division, in partnership with the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture, will be essential to the continued growth and diversification of the statewide industry.

I respectfully ask your full support of this measure as described in HB 694 HD1. Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.



Hawai'i Aquaculture & Aquaponics Association
Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council
Hawai'i Farm Bureau Federation
Hawai'i Farmers' Union United
Hawai'i Food Industry Association
Hawai'i Food Manufacturers Association
Kohala Center
Land Use Research Foundation of Hawai'i
Maui Farm to School Network (Maui F2SN)
Ulupono Initiative
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources - University of Hawai'i at Manoa

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
February 22, 2023 – 2:30 p.m. – Via Videoconference &
Conference Room 308

**HB 694 HD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
SUPPORT**

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The Local Food Coalition **SUPPORTS** HB 694 HD1, which appropriates funds to support the Aquaculture Disease Diagnostic Laboratory at the Department of Agriculture (HDOA) Animal Industry Division Veterinary Laboratory Services Branch, in partnership with the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture (CTAHR).

This lab is critical to the continued development and expansion of the aquaculture industry. Currently, aquaculture samples are sent to the University of Arizona for testing, which creates delays and prevents timely industry action.

Aquaculture is important to the agriculture industry in Hawaii, and this bill provides the needed support to help the state meet its goal of doubling local food production.

The Local Food Coalition is an organization comprised of farmers, ranchers, livestock producers, investors and other organizations working to provide Hawaii's food supply.

We respectfully request your support of HB 694 HD1. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Kendall Matsuyoshi
808-544-8345
kmatsuyoshi@wik.com

HB-694-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 8:31:59 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maria Haws	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha:

I am submitting this testimony in my capacity as a private citizen. Based on 23 years of experience working in aquaculture education and research in Hawai'i, I can attest to the importance of this bill. Aquaculture revenues total close to \$80 million annually and provide between 400-500 jobs. Two of the most important sectors of aquaculture, shrimp and shellfish, are dependent on having the ability to access disease diagnostic testing. I currently manage a shellfish hatchery at the Pacific Aquaculture and Coastal Resources Center (PACRC) at the University of Hawaii Hilo. Some of our student-produced oyster seed is exported to the West Coast and the revenue helps support our student training, as well as providing an important source of oyster seed to Hawai'i and West Coast producers. We must test our broodstock, larvae and seed annually for a cost of \$3,000 to \$5,000 for each of these classes.

The disease testing is currently only done at one certified lab in Washington. Aside from the inhibitory cost, it may take a month or longer to receive the results since all oyster producers and hatchery operators on the West Coast must use the same lab at the same time of year, creating a back-log of work at this lab. The costs and the wait time have severely impacted us at times. Hawaii needs a fully-equipped laboratory to provide us with an alternative to the lab in Washington. Moreover, the lab will be a great training facility for graduate and undergraduate students who wish to study pathology and diagnostic. Currently there is no adequate way for us to create a trained workforce in this field. Please consider supporting this bill to keep our funding in the state, provide more rapid results and allow us to train our own personnel in this critical field. Thank you.

2029 Nuuanu Ave. #1510
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817
February 21, 2023

Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair, and Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance
State Capitol, 415 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support HB 694 HD1, "Relating to the University of Hawai'i," which would provide funding for the State's aquaculture disease diagnostic laboratory and aquaculture veterinarian.

I have made my living in aquaculture and aquaponics in Hawai'i since the late 1970's. Since that time, aquaculture has grown into a major component of Hawai'i's diversified agriculture, with sales of almost \$80 million in 2021 and with much room for further growth. The veterinarian and diagnostic laboratory provide critical support not only for aquaculture exports as mentioned in item (4) of HB 694 HD1, but for nearly all segments of the extremely diverse aquaculture industry. I therefore respectfully urge you to support these vital services by passing HB 694 HD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important legislation, and for your support of Hawai'i's growing aquaculture industry.

Sincerely,



Frederick M. Mencher