



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2023**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:
S.B. NO. 518, RELATING TO AQUACULTURE.

BEFORE THE:
SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT AND ON
HIGHER EDUCATION

DATE: Tuesday, February 14, 2023 **TIME:** 3:07 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 229

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Candace J. Park, Deputy Attorney General

Chairs Gabbard and Kim and Members of the Committees:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments.

The purposes of this bill are to require the University of Hawai'i Sea Grant Program to (1) establish a five-year plan to develop goals, objectives, and an operational plan with budgets and timelines to strengthen and grow the aquaculture industry in the State; (2) contract with an independent consultant who shall facilitate the five-year plan; (3) engage with aquaculture industry leaders and stakeholders; and (4) submit the five-year plan to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2024. The bill also appropriates moneys to the University of Hawai'i Sea Grant Program to contract with an independent consultant.

Section 6 of article X of the Hawai'i State Constitution gives the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i "exclusive jurisdiction over the internal structure, management, and operation of the university." Section 6 further provides: "This section shall not limit the power of the legislature to enact laws of statewide concern. The legislature shall have the exclusive jurisdiction to identify laws of statewide concern." If the Committee decides to pass this bill, we recommend an amendment that adds a statement identifying this bill as a law of statewide concern.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

SB-518

Submitted on: 2/11/2023 12:44:10 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/14/2023 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Endreson	Testifying for Kohala Mountain Fish Company	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We are in strong support of SB518. We have been able to build one of the top 3 fish farms in the US here in Hawaii and a US dept of Commerce Certified Processing Center. It allows us to compete in the global market, sell to US Federal Food Programs and be price competitive as s product of Hawsii.

Aquaculture should be a major component of Hawaii Ag.



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 14, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

TESTIMONY ON SB 518
RELATING TO AQUACULTURE

Conference Room 229 & Videoconference
3:07 PM

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Kim, Vice-Chairs Richards and Kidani, and Members of the Committees:

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 supports SB 518, which would require the University of Hawai'i sea grant college program to contract with an independent consultant for the development of a statewide strategic five-year plan for aquaculture and appropriate funds for this.

The Legislature acknowledged the importance of Hawai'i's aquaculture industry by revitalizing the Aquaculture Development Program (ADP) through Act 63, SLH 2019, and in SLH 2022 provided funding for 4 positions for ADP. Supporting local aquacultural production can help the State move toward greater food sustainability and there is significant growth potential for the aquaculture industry in Hawai'i.

HFB strongly supports the goal of this measure and respectfully suggests that this body adopt the specific well-reasoned recommendations made by the Hawai'i Aquaculture and Aquaponics Association to assure that the goal will be met.

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

SB-518

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 11:48:56 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/14/2023 3:07:00 PM

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

Comments:

My name is John Corbin and I storngly support this measure. I managed the State Aquaculture Development Program from 1978 to 2006, when I retired. I have continued involvement in the industry through membership in the Hawaii Aquaculture and Aquaponics Association and the USDA Regional Aquaculture Center.

During my tenure as Manager, development efforts were guided by a series of planning documents, each developed in consultation with public and private sector stakeholders. It is very timely to develop a new 5 year statewide Strategic Development Plan starting with conducting a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats Analysis, as the industry and the State economy begin to recover from the Pandemic and in some respects it is a new world. It is also appropriate because the federal government is increasing its support for expanding domestic aquaculture and Hawaii has an excellant reputation for innovative aquaculture research.

Thank you for the oppportuniy to comment.



HIplan
www.HIplan.biz

**PO Box 1095
Kurtistown Hawaii
96760
808-938-2840**

February 13 2023

TO: Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair; Senator Herbert M. “Tim” Richards, III, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture & Environment
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, February 14, 2023 @ 3:07 p.m. in Room 229 & Videoconference

**RE: SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL 518 RELATING TO AQUACULTURE – DEVELOP
A 5-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN FOR AQUACULTURE**

Aloha Chairs Gabbard & Kim, Vice Chairs Richards & Kidani, and Members of the Committees,

HIplan strongly supports SB 518: A 5-Year Strategic Plan for Aquaculture.

Aquaculture in Hawaii has a long colorful history and I personally have a long career in the field. I started, developed and eventually sold my company High Health Aquaculture – the world’s first SPF shrimp breeding company. Over the years we developed the technology and built the markets for Hawaii SPF shrimp broodstock which has achieved cumulative sales of more than \$350 MM since the early 00s. Sales of more than \$30 MM per year have been achieved for the last 10 years. This came about because we saw the strategic opportunity in the field. There are other opportunities to be developed in aquaculture but the probability of developing those strategic products and/or technologies will most likely happen if there is a carefully considered strategic plan guiding policy and investments. Thus we strongly support this bill to fund development of a strategic plan for Hawaii’s aquaculture industry.

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

Sincerely,

Jim Wyban PhD
Founder/Chairman
HIplan and
Organizer
Hawaii Aquaculture Conference
Hawaii Convention Center
September 28 2023



Feb 13 2023

Senate Committee on Higher Education and Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Tuesday, February 14, 2023, 3:07 PM, Conference Room 229

Re: SB518 Relating to Aquaculture

Aloha Chairs Kim and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Kidani and Richards, and Committee Members,

The Hawaii Aquaculture and Aquaponics Association (HAAA) representing aquaculture industry members, researchers, and supporters Statewide strongly supports SB 518 which appropriates funds for the University of Hawaii Sea Grant Program to contract with an independent consultant to establish a five-year plan to develop goals, objectives, and an operational plan with budgets and timelines to strengthen and grow the aquaculture industry in the State.

The HAAA appreciates the bills clarification that the University of Hawaii sea grant program shall also engage with aquaculture industry leaders and stakeholders in this effort. We believe that this collaborative strategic planning effort is critical to the continued growth of sustainable aquaculture in Hawaii. As such, the HAAA respectfully requests your support of SB 518.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Sincerely,

Ron Weidenbach
HAAA President

SB-518

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 1:38:04 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/14/2023 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

support