
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO RESTORATIVE AQUACULTURE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that a 2021 study by The
2 Nature Conservancy establishes that "[r]estorative aquaculture
3 occurs when commercial or subsistence aquaculture provides
4 direct ecological benefits to the environment, with the
5 potential to generate net-positive environmental outcomes." The
6 legislature further finds that the term "restorative
7 aquaculture" has been applied to the cultivation of seaweeds and
8 bivalve species as both can benefit the ecosystem while
9 potentially producing commercially valuable crops.

10 However, the question remains whether restorative
11 aquaculture activities, such as the cultivation of seaweed and
12 oysters, are feasible in the State. Therefore, a feasibility
13 study on restorative aquaculture is a crucial step to assess the
14 potential benefits, risks, and impacts of restorative
15 aquaculture activities in the State and to provide valuable
16 information for decision-makers and stakeholders to make



1 informed choices about whether to proceed with a restorative
2 aquaculture initiative and how best to design and implement it.

3 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require and
4 appropriate funds for the department of agriculture's
5 aquaculture development program to conduct a feasibility study
6 to identify potential sites in the State for restorative
7 aquaculture activities.

8 SECTION 2. (a) The department of agriculture's
9 aquaculture development program shall conduct a feasibility
10 study to identify potential sites in the State for restorative
11 aquaculture activities.

12 (b) The study shall include but not be limited to the
13 following considerations:

14 (1) Identification of locations that are technically
15 feasible to cultivate indigenous seaweed, bivalve, or
16 nearshore fish species based on:

17 (A) The physical oceanographic conditions with
18 respect to the equipment, cultivated species, and
19 operator requirements;



1 (B) The environmental conditions that would be
2 required for suitable growth of the cultivated
3 species; and

4 (C) The marine spatial planning constraints with
5 respect to existing marine sector infrastructure
6 and activity, including the aggregation and
7 integration of existing marine spatial planning
8 data sets;

9 (2) Evaluation of legal issues related to ownership,
10 carbon policy, and transfer of carbon rights,
11 including the negotiation of any necessary legal
12 agreements to register and sell offsets or credits and
13 the legal authority of landowners to participate in
14 market projects;

15 (3) Exploration of the scope for beneficial interactions
16 and relationships with local communities and fishing
17 interests, including community-supported reforestation
18 of near-shore areas and traditional fishpond sites of
19 depleted seaweed and bivalve populations; and



1 (4) Engagement with rural and native Hawaiian communities
2 and nonprofits already piloting restorative
3 aquaculture with native fish and seaweed species.

4 (c) The department of agriculture shall submit a report of
5 its findings and recommendations, including any proposed
6 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
7 to the convening of the regular session of 2025.

8 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
10 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for
11 the department of agriculture's aquaculture development program
12 to conduct a feasibility study to identify potential sites in
13 the State for restorative aquaculture activities.

14 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
15 agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

16 SECTION 4. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of
17 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,
18 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the
19 appropriations contained in H.B. No. , will cause the state
20 general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be
21 exceeded by \$ or per cent. In addition, the



1 appropriation contained in this Act will cause the general fund
2 expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be further
3 exceeded by \$ or per cent. The combined total
4 amount of general fund appropriations contained in only these
5 two Acts will cause the state general fund expenditure ceiling
6 for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by
7 \$ or per cent. The reasons for exceeding the
8 general fund expenditure ceiling are that:

- 9 (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to
10 serve the public interest; and
11 (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs
12 addressed by this Act.

13 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



H.B. NO. 2001
H.D. 1

Report Title:

DOA; Aquaculture Development Program; Restorative Aquaculture;
Feasibility Study; Report to the Legislature; Appropriation;
Expenditure Ceiling

Description:

Requires the Department of Agriculture's Aquaculture Development
Program to conduct a feasibility study to identify potential
sites in the State for restorative aquaculture activities.
Makes an appropriation. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is
not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

