



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2024**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:
H.B. NO. 2617, RELATING TO AQUACULTURE.

BEFORE THE:
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS

DATE: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 **TIME:** 9:15 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 325 and Videoconference

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Kelcie K. Nagata or Bryan C. Yee, Deputy Attorneys General

Chair Gates and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments:

The purpose of this bill is to establish an aquaculture advisory committee within the Department of Agriculture.

We note that the bill does not contain a provision specifying whether the members of the advisory committee should serve without compensation as recommended by the Hawaii Legislative Drafting Manual (item 10 on page 71).

Accordingly, we recommend adding to the new section being added to chapter 141, Hawaii Revised Statutes, by section 1 of the bill, on page 2, beginning at line 19, a new subsection (e) to read as follows:

(e) The members of the aquaculture advisory committee shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for expenses, including travel expenses, necessary for the performance of their duties.

In the alternative, this provision could be added to subsection (b) of the new section at page 2, line 9.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DEXTER KISHIDA
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 AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

FEBRUARY 14, 2024
9:15 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 325

HOUSE BILL NO. 2617
RELATING TO AQUACULTURE

Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2617. The bill establishes the Aquaculture Advisory Committee within the Department of Agriculture; declares that the general fund expenditure ceiling is exceeded; and makes an appropriation. The Department offers comments.

The establishment of an Aquaculture Advisory Committee creates an unnecessary bureaucratic layer in the State's aquaculture development sector. Historically, the Hawaii Aquaculture Advisory Council (HAAC) was established in 1998 and was abolished in 2000. The reasoning for HAAC abolishment was the establishment of an effective statewide industry organization, the Hawaii Aquaculture Association (now Hawaii Aquaculture and Aquaponics Association). The association provides the department industry and technical perspective on the sector.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





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February 14, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

TESTIMONY ON HB 2617
RELATING TO AQUACULTURE

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
9:15 AM

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice-Chair Kahaloa, 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 supports HB 2617, which establishes the Aquaculture Advisory Committee within the Department of Agriculture.

Hawai'i's aquaculture industry farm gate value is \$80,000,000, the second-highest contribution to the economy in diversified agriculture. Hawai'i's favorable climate and geography allow for inherent advantages benefitting aquaculture production.

The Legislature acknowledged the importance of Hawai'i's aquaculture industry by revitalizing the Aquaculture Development Program through Act 63, SLH 2019. However, more investment and research into the aquaculture industry is needed, including investment and research into different types of aquaculture, aquaculture system optimization, and economic implications of various methods of aquaculture production.

An Aquaculture industry-led advisory committee can help strengthen and grow Hawai'i's aquaculture industry, bringing in investment, producing high-quality seafood, and increasing the State's economic resilience and food sustainability.

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

HB-2617

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 5:04:23 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacqueline S. Ambrose	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

RELATING TO AQUACULTURE.

Establishes the Aquaculture Advisory Committee within the Department of Agriculture. Declares that the general fund expenditure ceiling is exceeded. Makes an appropriation.