

MAR 0 5 2024

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO SUPPORT EFFORTS TO
IMPROVE THE AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM STRATEGIC PLAN.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii's aquaculture industry is well-established,
2 and the islands offer a competitive edge over the mainland
3 United States and other parts of the world in a number of ways,
4 including:

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6 (1) A favorable climate with critical biosecurity through
7 natural geographical isolation;

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9 (2) Access to varied water temperatures, from warmer
10 tropical water to pristine, deep, cold water, which
11 provides the ability to farm a wide variety of
12 species;

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14 (3) Restorative aquaculture at Native Hawaiian fishponds,
15 which form a unique part of Hawaii's culture and
16 identity, is already ongoing and supported by the
17 community at large; and

18
19 (4) Hawaii's current aquaculture research environment,
20 which provides an excellent infrastructure to test and
21 validate new aquaculture concepts; and
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23 WHEREAS, to promote aquaculture in Hawaii, the Aquaculture
24 Development Program of the Department of Agriculture devised a
25 ten-year strategic plan, which aims to achieve the dual goals of
26 increasing aquaculture food production and supporting
27 initiatives for restorative aquaculture; and
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29 WHEREAS, the strategic plan also seeks to create
30 socioeconomic advantages for the State that benefit its people,
31 economy, and environment; and



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2 WHEREAS, although the aquaculture sector in Hawaii is
3 already well-established, it needs to attract larger numbers of
4 industry players, entrepreneurs, and investors to stimulate
5 greater commercial activity and generate increased opportunities
6 to fulfil its ultimate potential; and
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8 WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture commissioned Hatch
9 Innovation Services to investigate the state of aquaculture in
10 Hawaii and make recommendations on how to improve the
11 Aquaculture Development Program's existing strategic plan; and
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13 WHEREAS, the objective of Hatch Innovation Services'
14 report, which was released in February 2024, was to offer
15 recommendations for key areas on which state--as well as local
16 and federal--agencies can focus to drive the aquaculture sector
17 forward and develop a robust, sustainable food-production system
18 that will contribute meaningfully to the community, economy, and
19 environment; now, therefore,
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21 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
22 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the
23 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
24 Agriculture is urged to support efforts to improve the
25 Aquaculture Development Program strategic plan; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture
28 is urged to adopt the recommendations made by Hatch Innovation
29 Services in its February 2024 report regarding the strategic
30 plan; and
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
33 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
34 Board of Agriculture.
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OFFERED BY: _____

