

**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  
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**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD**  
**CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**FEBRUARY 02, 2024**  
**1:00 PM**  
**CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2083**  
**RELATING TO RESTORATIVE AQUACULTURE**

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2083. The bill 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 and makes an appropriation. The Department supports this bill.

Restorative aquaculture is an emerging sector in the State's aquaculture portfolio. Thorough planning is necessary to sustain initiatives that incorporate the conservation benefits with good aquaculture practices. The identification of viable restorative aquaculture locations will support permitting, resource allocation, and community support for projected activities.

As such, the Department supports this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





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February 1, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

**TESTIMONY ON SB 2083**  
RELATING TO RESTORATIVE AQUACULTURE

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference  
1:00 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, 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 2083**, which 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.

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.

Restorative Aquaculture is a sustainable opportunity for food production that can also benefit the ocean and climate. Seaweed and bivalves can provide food for Hawai'i while requiring almost no feed or fresh water while also helping to restore coastal ecosystems by improving water quality and removing excess nutrients and carbon dioxide.

Hawai'i is well-positioned and suited for restorative aquaculture because of our favorable climate, critical ocean biosecurity through natural isolation, and high seafood consumption. Restorative Aquaculture can help strengthen and grow Hawai'i's aquaculture industry and also provide environmental benefits.

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