



SB2159 SD1
RELATING TO FOOD SUSTAINABILITY
House Committee on Agriculture
House Committee on Water and Land

March 20, 2024

9:30 a.m.

Conference Room 325

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SB2159 SD1, which addresses food sustainability, a critical issue affecting our communities, particularly the Native Hawaiian population. We also **respectfully request an amendment** to further strengthen this proposal. **OHA emphasizes the significant opportunity to prioritize food security, particularly for the Native Hawaiian community, while also fostering environmental sustainability.**

OHA supports this bill which promotes and expands the state's focus on food sustainability. It aims to include wild seafood as a viable food source in the State Agriculture Functional Plan and requires the Department of Agriculture to update the plan periodically and include other agricultural economic updates like seafood sustainability. This will help ensure the long-term sustainability of our food sources and support our local farmers, fishers, and aquaculture producers.

Aquaculture and fish farming are integral parts of Native Hawaiian culture. The proposed measure could help to make Hawai'i's food system more sustainable while preserving cultural, social, economic, and political values related to food. OHA appreciates the ways in which this bill recognizes how much fishing provides for our communities, even when it is not commercialized. OHA stands ready to ensure that future plans for saltwater aquaculture actions and investments align with Hawaiians' traditional and customary rights as well as the rights of subsistence-based fishing.

OHA respectfully offers amendments to section 2 of this bill to ensure there is monitoring and consideration of any impacts to Native Hawaiian fishing practices, community-based fishing areas and our entire ecosystem which includes the Northwest Hawaiian Islands:



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"§226- Other objectives and policies for the economy-- agriculture. (a) Pursuant to section 226-55, the department of

agriculture, in coordination with the office of planning and sustainable development, shall prepare and periodically update the state agriculture functional plan to include other agricultural economic updates, including updates on aquaculture, that expand the State's priority on food by including freshwater and saltwater aquatic organisms as a viable food source.

(b) As part of the updated state agriculture functional plan, which shall include aquaculture among other agricultural economic updates, the department of agriculture and the office of planning and sustainable development may:

(1) Establish objectives, policies, and actions related to aquaculture;

(2) Research the agricultural and economic impact that freshwater and saltwater aquatic organisms have on food self-sufficiency in the State, including its influence on:

(A) Non-commercial consumption, such as community sharing and fisher household consumption; and

(B) Community-based subsistence fishing areas; and

(C) Exports;



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(3) Collect data on the wholesale and retail sales of freshwater and saltwater aquatic organisms in the State;

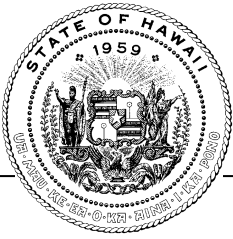
(4) Classify and regulate freshwater and saltwater aquatic organisms as a food commodity in the State; and

(5) Incorporate aquaculture into the state agriculture functional plan related to increased food security and food self-sufficiency.

(6) Collaborate with Native Hawaiian organizations, including but not limited to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, to research and monitor the impact of any expansion of aquacultural markets on our ocean ecosystems that span the entire 1,500 miles of our Hawaiian Islands as well as traditional and customary fishing practices.

(c) For the purposes of this section, "freshwater and saltwater aquatic organism" means naturally born or hatchery-raised fish and shellfish harvested in the wild through commercial, recreational, or subsistence fishing but excludes net-pen aquacultural or other farm-raised fish."

OHA believes this measure can provide an important blueprint for moving the state forward to better incorporate aquaculture in our state's agricultural plan. Accordingly, OHA urges the Committee to ADVANCE and AMEND SB2159 SD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF PLANNING
& SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
INTERIM DIRECTOR

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Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS, Interim Director

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND WATER AND LAND

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

9:30 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 325

in consideration of
**SENATE BILL 2159, SD 2
RELATING TO FOOD SUSTAINABILITY.**

Chairs Gates and Ichiyama, Vice Chairs Kahaloa and Poepoe, and Members of the Committees on Agriculture and Water and Land:

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) **supports** S.B. 2159, SD 2 which requires the Department of Agriculture, in coordination with the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, to prepare and periodically update the State Agriculture Functional Plan to include other agricultural economic updates, including aquaculture, that expand the State's priority on food by including freshwater and saltwater aquatic organisms as a viable food source. Requires the Governor to submit the updated plan to the Legislature prior to the Regular Session of 2026.

To comply with Hawai'i Revised Statutes §§ 226-55 and -56, DOA will need to convene an advisory committee and work in close cooperation with the officials and people of each county. OPSD is happy to provide guidelines and support the DOA.

Given the extensive scope of the work program mandated in §226-55, OPSD defers to the DOA on the impact on the Department's staff and programmatic resources.

Furthermore, the OPSD highlights that the Senate Ways and Means Committee included clarifying language in the SD 2 of the potential update to the Agricultural Functional Plan, which are anticipated to be codified near Hawai'i Revised Statutes § 226-7, under the category of "Other objectives and policies for the economy—agriculture."

Should the Legislature intend to modernize the agricultural economic objectives outlined in the Hawai'i State Planning Act through this measure, the OPSD suggests an **additional amendment** to delete a portion of Hawai'i Revised Statutes § 226-7 (as shown in the following paragraph), as Hawai'i's sugar and pineapple industries are no longer major economic agricultural industries toward achieving Hawai'i's food sustainability.

Proposed Amendment:

“§226-7 Objectives and policies for the economy--agriculture. (a) Planning for the State's economy with regard to agriculture shall be directed towards achievement of the following objectives:

- (1) ~~Viability of Hawaii's sugar and pineapple industries.”~~

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

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

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS
AND WATER AND LAND**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2024
9:30 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 325**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2159, SENATE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO FOOD SUSTAINABILITY**

Chairs Gates and Ichiyama, Vice Chairs Kahaloa and Poepoe and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2159, SD2. This bill amends Chapter 226 (Hawaii State Planning Act) by requiring the Department of Agriculture (Department) in coordination with the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development to prepare and periodically update the State Agriculture Functional Plan to include other agricultural economic updates, including aquaculture, that expands the State's priority on food by including freshwater and saltwater aquatic organisms as a viable food source. The updated Functional Plan is to be submitted prior to the convening of the 2026 Legislature. The Department offers comments and proposes amendments.

With respect to undertaking a revision of the State Agriculture Functional Plan and incorporating freshwater and saltwater aquatic organisms, the Department notes



that Section 226-55 governs the updates of the Functional Plans and describes a comprehensive and deliberate process.

The Department strongly cautions that the revision of the existing State Agriculture Functional Plan (accepted by the Governor in 1991) to include freshwater and saltwater aquatic organisms in the manner described in the measure (Page 3, lines 1-17) and to include "other agricultural economic updates" will be a time-consuming exercise that will require a considerable commitment of resources. For instance, the process that led to the 1991 Agriculture Functional Plan took over 10 years before the Technical Advisory Committee agreed to its contents. Further, there are twelve total State Functional Plans and only the Housing Functional Plan (2017) has been updated since their initial adoption in 1989 and additional revisions for seven of the plans through 1991.

The Department recommends that the measure be amended to require the Department, in coordination with the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development to produce a report on freshwater and saltwater aquatic organisms that addresses the requirements enumerated on page 3, lines 1-17.

(Page 2, lines 17-20)

" (b) ~~[As part of the updated state agriculture functional plan, which shall include aquaculture among other agricultural economic updates,]~~ Prior to updating the state agriculture functional plan, the department of agriculture and the office of planning and sustainable development ~~[may]~~ shall produce a report on freshwater and saltwater aquatic organisms that may include the following elements: "

(Page 4, lines 3-7)

"SECTION 3. The governor shall submit the ~~[updated state agriculture functional plan pursuant to section 226-56, Hawaii Revised Statutes,]~~ report on freshwater and

saltwater aquatic organisms, including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2026."

This report may be considered and incorporated into a revision of the State Agriculture Functional Plan to be tasked to the Department at a later date.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



March 18, 2024

TO: Representative Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair; and Representative Kirstin Kahaloa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

Representative Linda Ichiyama, Chair; and Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair
House Committee on Water & Land

Wed, March 20, 2024 @ 9:30 a.m..
State Capitol Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

RE: WE ARE IN FULL SUPPORT of SENATE BILL 2159, SD2 – Which Requires HDOA to include aquaculture and expands the State’s priority on food by including freshwater and saltwater organisms as a viable food source.

Aloha Chairs Gates and Ichiyama, Vice Chairs Kahaloa and Poepoe, and Members of the Committees,

Maui Phoenix Farms LLC, dba Maui Trout Company, strongly supports SB 2159, SD2: Requires HDOA to include aquaculture in the State Agriculture Functional Plan and expands the State’s priority on food by including freshwater and saltwater organisms as a viable food source. We are all well aware of our dire need for increased food security yet nothing seems to change. This is your opportunity to effect a positive measure to ensure our families' future.

We are Hawaii's first rainbow trout aquaponics operation. As you are aware, aquaponics includes production of both fish and vegetable crops. The fish are vitally important to the process and represent a significant protein resource. Though we started small, we have big plans that, once realized will result in creation of 50 high quality jobs and the production of hundreds of thousands of pounds of nutritious food for our community, including both vegetables and fish. Your support of this bill will help us in our efforts.

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

Sincerely,
John Dobovan
CEO
Maui Phoenix Farms LLC
dba Maui Trout Company
j.dobovan@gmail.com
(808) 955-0955

SB-2159-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 6:20:09 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/20/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ronald Weidenbach	Hawaii Aquaculture and Aquaponics Association	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Hawaii Aquaculture and Aquaponics Association (HAAA) supports SB2159 SD2 to require the state agriculture functional plan to include additional agricultural economic updates, including updates on aquaculture. Hawaii's agriculture industry has transformed from plantation agriculture to a more diversified agriculture industry since the prior functional plan was prepared, including a significant expansion of aquaculture. The agriculture industry and legislature need to be updated on the current status of the various industry segments to enable sound planning and support for agriculture expansion and increased local food production and exports. To do so, we would encourage this measure to also include additional qualified staffing to facilitate this important planning effort.

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



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e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

March 20, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

TESTIMONY ON SB 2159, SD2
RELATING TO FOOD SUSTAINABILITY

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
9:30 AM

Aloha Chairs Gates and Ichiyama, Vice-Chairs Kahaloa and Poepoe, 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 2159, SD2, which requires the Department of Agriculture, in coordination with the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, to prepare and periodically update the State Agriculture Functional Plan to include other agricultural economic updates, including aquaculture, that expand the State's priority on food by including freshwater and saltwater aquatic organisms as a viable food source and requires the Governor to submit the updated plan to the Legislature prior to the Regular Session of 2026

The State's Agricultural Functional Plan was last updated in 1991. Since it was last updated, Hawai'i's agricultural industry has transitioned from plantation agriculture to a more diversified agriculture sector. Diversified agriculture in Hawai'i includes flowers and nursery products, vegetables and melons, macadamia nuts, cattle, milk, fruits, poultry, eggs, forest products, hogs, coffee, taro, ulu, cacao, other livestock, and aquaculture.

Hawai'i's aquaculture industry continues to be one of the fastest-growing segments of Hawai'i agriculture and has become an important source of food and other products for local sale and export. Hawai'i residents consume seafood at twice the national average, with around 51% of seafood available to consumers derived from local sources.

Supporting freshwater and saltwater aquatic organisms as a viable food source can help the State move toward greater food sustainability, as there is significant growth potential for the aquaculture industry in Hawai'i.

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



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Ted Radovich
Waimanalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura
Honolulu, O'ahu

Natalie Urminska
Kauai

Aloha Chair Gates, Ichiyama, Vice Chair Kahaloa, Poepoe, and Members of the House, House Agriculture & Food Systems, Water & Land Committee,

The Hawaii Farmers Union is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFUU supports SB2159.**

This bill is crucial in promoting and expanding the state's priority on food sustainability by including wild seafood as a viable food source in the State Agriculture Functional Plan. By requiring the Department of Agriculture to update the plan periodically and include other agricultural economic updates, such as seafood sustainability, we can ensure the long-term viability of our food sources and support our local farmers, fishers, and aquaculture producers.

The inclusion of seafood sustainability in the State Agriculture Functional Plan is a necessary step towards promoting a more diverse and resilient food system in Hawaii. As an island state, we are heavily reliant on imports for our food supply, but by prioritizing aquaculture as a viable food source, we can reduce our dependence on outside sources and support our local food producers. Additionally, by requiring the Governor to submit the plan to the Legislature prior to the Regular Session of 2026, we can ensure that the state remains on track to meeting the goals established for increasing food production and supporting our local agriculture industry.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF

LATE *Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.



The Nature Conservancy, Hawai'i and Palmyra
923 Nu'uuanu Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96817

Tel (808) 537-4508
Fax (808) 545-2019
nature.org/HawaiiPalmyra

**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy
Support for SB 2159, SD2, Relating to Food Sustainability
Committees on Agriculture and Food Systems
Committee on Water and Land
February 20, 2024, 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 325 & Videoconference**

LATE

Aloha Chairs Gates and Ichiyama, Vice Chairs Kahaloe and Poepoe, and Members of the Committees:

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) **supports** SB 2159, SD2, relating to food sustainability, requires the Department of Agriculture, in coordination with the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, to prepare and periodically update the State Agriculture Functional Plan to include other agricultural economic updates, including aquaculture, that expand the State's priority on food by including freshwater and saltwater aquatic organisms as a viable food source. It requires the Governor to submit an updated plan to the Legislature prior to the Regular Session of 2026.

It's a long-held assumption that food production and environmental health are a zero-sum game. Food production currently accounts for nearly one-quarter of global greenhouse gas emissions, and 70 and 80 percent of freshwater usage and habitat degradation respectively. The ocean, meanwhile, faces unprecedented perils in the form of overfishing, coastal water pollution, and habitat degradation, including food production through fishing and aquaculture. A growing body of evidence, however, is challenging the assumption that increasing food production will inevitably result in the degradation of nature. Through practices such as restorative aquaculture, it's possible to produce nutritious food and actively contribute to the recovery of ecosystems at the same time.

Aquaculture is not only the fastest-growing form of food production—it can also be one of the most environmentally efficient ways of producing food. This is especially true for bivalves and seaweed, which are near-zero input forms of farming—their production requires almost no feed, freshwater or land and results in minimal greenhouse gas emissions.

TNC has been a policy leader in exploring the practices of restorative aquaculture. We appreciate that this bill will update the State Agricultural Functional Plan to include prioritizing and including freshwater and saltwater aquatic organisms as food sources.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2159, SD2.

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Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

The Voice of Business

House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

Representative Gates, Chair

Representative Kahaloa, Vice Chair

House Committee on Water & Land

Representative Ichiyama, Chair

Representative Poepoe, Vice Chair

RECEIVED
Date & Time
Mar 19, 2024, 5:06 pm

LATE

Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 9:30AM
Conference Room 325 & Video Conference

RE: SB2159 SD2 Relating to Food Sustainability

Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii Supports (“The Chamber”) **supports SB2159 SD2**, which requires the Department of Agriculture (DOA), in coordination with the OPSD, to prepare and periodically update the State Agriculture Functional Plan to include other agricultural economic updates, including aquaculture, that expand the State's priority on food by including wild seafood as a viable food source. Requires the Governor to submit the plan to the Legislature prior to the Regular Session of 2026.

The Chamber completed its 2030 Blueprint for Hawaii Initiative earlier this year. The vision was to create a data-based action plan for Business to lead and shape Hawaii’s economic future as a top place to do business. We connected with stakeholders from business, government & community to shape goals and priorities and develop a strategy that presents achievable policy reforms and metrics to increase Hawaii's economic competitiveness.

As a part of the blueprint, stakeholders indicated that industry diversification, specifically within Hawaii’s agricultural industries, is a key opportunity for growth in advancing the local economy and achieving greater food self-sufficiency. Incorporating aquaculture into the state agriculture functional plan would help further progress Hawaii’s food security and food self-sufficiency goals.

The Chamber is Hawaii’s leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 2,000+ businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the “Voice of Business” in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state’s economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

On behalf of The Chamber, thank you for this opportunity to testify.

SB-2159-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:09:17 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/20/2024 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

Yes to; requiring the Department of Agriculture, in coordination with the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, to prepare and periodically update the State Agriculture Functional Plan to include other agricultural economic updates, including aquaculture, that expand the State's priority on food by including freshwater and saltwater aquatic organisms as a viable food source. Requires the Governor to submit an updated plan to the Legislature prior to themRegular Session of 2026