

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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

APRIL 12, 2024
10:00 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 325

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 29
URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO SUPPORT EFFORTS TO
IMPROVE THE AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM STRATEGIC PLAN

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 29. The resolutions urge the Department of Agriculture to support efforts to improve the Aquaculture Development Strategic Plan. The Department supports the resolutions.

Based on company and industry forecasts, the 2034 value of Hawaii's aquaculture industry is estimated to reach \$600M – increasing from the 2022 value of \$89.6M. The Improving the Aquaculture Development Program (ADP) Strategic Plan document identifies key areas for improvement in the existing ADP framework that are needed to reach that goal. The plan's recommendations are already being integrated into immediate tactical plans.

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





P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

April 12, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

TESTIMONY ON SCR 29
URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO SUPPORT EFFORTS TO
IMPROVE THE AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM STRATEGIC PLAN

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
10:00 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 SCR 29, which urges the Department of Agriculture to support efforts to improve the Aquaculture Development Program Strategic Plan.

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 (ADP) through Act 63, SLH 2019, and providing funding for 4 positions for ADP in SLH 2022. Supporting local aquacultural production can help the State move toward greater food sustainability, and there is significant growth potential for the aquaculture industry in Hawai'i.

However, more investment and research into the aquaculture industry is needed, including research into different types of aquaculture, aquaculture system optimization, and the economic implications of various methods of aquaculture production. Improving the Aquaculture Development Program Strategic Plan could facilitate this and the growth of our Aquaculture sector.

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

SCR-29

Submitted on: 4/9/2024 3:01:14 PM

Testimony for AGR on 4/12/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

Yes to:- URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO SUPPORT
EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM STRATEGIC PLAN