

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
Governor

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
Lt. Governor



**SHARON HURD**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**MORRIS M. ATTA**  
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**

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2023**  
**10:00 AM**  
**CONFERENCE ROOM 325 & VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 204**  
**RELATING TO MEASUREMENT STANDARDS**

Chairperson Gates and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 240. This bill prohibits the sale of farm raised fish and shellfish without a label stating where the seafood was landed. The Department of Agriculture (DOA) offers the following comments:

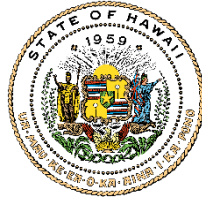
DOA supports clear identification of origin of products and enforce false packaging and labeling for certain products. This bill may duplicate work already being done with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) program, 7 CFR Part 60. Under a cooperative agreement with USDA, the Department conducts surveillance reviews statewide to make sure seafood products are being properly labeled under COOL regulations at retail establishments certain times of the year. The surveillance reviews done by DOA are documented and submitted to USDA for further regulatory action.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



**STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I**  
**DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**  
**KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA**

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**Testimony of**  
**DAWN N. S. CHANG**  
**Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on**  
**AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS**

**Friday, February 10, 2023**  
**10:00 AM**

**State Capitol, VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of**  
**HOUSE BILL 204**  
**RELATING TO MEASUREMENT STANDARDS**

House Bill 204 proposes to prohibit the sale of farm raised fish and wild fish and shellfish without a label stating where the seafood was landed. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) appreciates the intent of this measure and offers the following comments.**

Today's consumers are increasingly aware of the sourcing of their seafood, with many looking for insight into the quality, safety, and sustainability of products they purchase and consume. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) law (7 CFR Part 60) requires that seafood products be labeled with the country of origin. The COOL requirement does not apply to prepared foods offered for retail sale at food service establishments. This means that prepared products such as poke currently have no labeling requirement.

The Department notes the importance of clearly defining "location" and "landed" as they are used in this bill. While location labeling at the country level may be easy to adopt, required labeling at the regional, state, port, or any other geographic scale finer than is currently required by COOL may present significant hardship to business owners who may not find this information readily available. Additionally, a labeling requirement at a scale finer than is already required under COOL would be difficult for state agencies to enforce. Labeling at the country level is feasible and enforceable because country of origin is tracked through customs. The term "landed" is typically used to describe the process of bringing wild-caught organisms to port

**DAWN N.S. CHANG**  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE  
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**LAURA H.E. KAAKUA**  
FIRST DEPUTY

**M. KALEO MANUEL**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES  
ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

following capture. It therefore needs to be clearly defined for both wild-caught fisheries, and for farmed seafood to which the term in its typical usage may not apply.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



# NATURAL ENERGY LABORATORY OF HAWAII AUTHORITY



An Authority of the State of Hawaii attached to the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism

Written Only

Statement of  
**Gregory P. Barbour**  
**Executive Director**  
Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority  
before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS**

Friday, February 10, 2023  
10:00 am  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

in consideration of  
**HB 204**  
**RELATING TO MEASUREMENT STANDARDS.**

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

The Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority (NELHA) is pleased to comment on HB 204 which amends Chapter 486, Hawaii Revised Statutes and requires additional labeling for seafood products by requiring information such as how and where seafood is caught or farmed follows the fish from boat or farm to the plate. This makes good business sense.

The first step to ensure that seafood is safe and legally caught is traceability. Requiring seafood businesses to honestly label their products increases transparency and accountability in the seafood supply chain.

We would like to suggest that the Committee may want to add a definition of the term “landed”. This term might not be applicable to “farm-raised” seafood.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

**HB-204**

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 12:20:15 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

support