

ACT 63

S.B. NO. 753

A Bill for an Act Relating to Aquaculture.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii had an innovative aquaculture development program during the 1980s and 1990s, initially under the department of business and economic development, then under the department of land and natural resources, and currently under the department of agriculture. The aquaculture development program assisted prospective farmers, investors, and technology companies in many ways, including providing technical assistance, and help with site selection and permitting, product and services marketing; and perhaps most importantly, giving a strong and informed voice within government in support of aquaculture as a desirable industry for Hawaii. The program played a large role in creating an industry that generates more than \$70,000,000 annually and is one of the largest sectors of Hawaii's diversified agriculture. Despite its success, the aquaculture development program has been reduced in staff and function. The program continues to be downsized and is now subsumed with livestock support services under the animal industries division of the department of agriculture. It is no coincidence that industry growth and Hawaii's aquaculture revenues have leveled off in recent years.

The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for operational expenses to revitalize the aquaculture development program.

SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$300,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 for the revitalization of the aquaculture development program, including strengthening staff expertise and capabilities to assist the aquaculture industry in the following areas:

- (1) Collection and dissemination of relevant information;
- (2) Species and site selection;
- (3) Facilitating permit acquisition;
- (4) Product and technical services marketing; and

- (5) Targeted research and extension services from the University of Hawaii on a cost-sharing basis.

The department of agriculture aquaculture development program shall be the lead state agency for developing aquaculture in the State.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

(Approved June 7, 2019.)