
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO FULLY SUPPORT THE
DEVELOPMENT OF THE SHELLFISH AQUACULTURE INDUSTRY AND
IMPLEMENT A STATEWIDE CLASSIFICATION PROGRAM FOR SHELLFISH
GROWING AREAS.

1 WHEREAS, it is widely recognized that there is enormous
2 potential in Hawaii to commercially culture bivalve shellfish,
3 such as oysters and clams, for export and for local consumption;
4 and

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6 WHEREAS, previous commercial efforts and recent research
7 conducted by both the private sector and the University of
8 Hawaii have firmly established the biological feasibility of
9 raising shellfish; and

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11 WHEREAS, several commercial companies currently produce
12 young seed oysters and clams in land-based facilities that are
13 shipped to the State of Washington and elsewhere to be grown in
14 coastal waters; and

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16 WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii at Hilo is conducting
17 tests, growing oysters in several fishponds around the State;
18 the projects are experiencing very high growth rates in
19 comparison to mainland locations, thus presenting Hawaii with
20 competitive economic advantages; and

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22 WHEREAS, organolyptic evaluations have shown that shellfish
23 produced in Hawaiian coastal waters have excellent flavor and
24 texture; and

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26 WHEREAS, reducing seafood imports to the State is urgent;
27 and enhancing the local production of high quality seafood is in
28 the State's best interest; and

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1 WHEREAS, bivalve shellfish culture is environmentally
2 friendly and can even improve environmental quality; and
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4 WHEREAS, the Department of Health, under title 11, chapter
5 35, Hawaii Administrative Rules, has the responsibility of
6 implementing the federally mandated National Shellfish
7 Sanitation Program, which includes criteria and protocols for
8 testing shellfish growing areas, as well as all aspects of
9 harvesting, processing, packaging, storing, and distribution of
10 shellfish; and
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12 WHEREAS, Hawaii is the only coastal state in the nation in
13 which locally grown shellfish cannot be certified and sold for
14 local consumption, in contrast to imported shellfish, which can
15 be certified and sold for local consumption; and
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17 WHEREAS, the Department of Health has a Food and Drug
18 Administration-certified water quality testing laboratory that
19 conducts similar water testing for water and dairy products, and
20 is capable of conducting the required water quality testing and
21 providing the trained staff to carry out the shellfish
22 certification tests; and
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24 WHEREAS, multiple aquaculture businesses and operators of
25 traditional fishponds have already expended significant
26 resources on research and development and have stated that they
27 would invest more in shellfish farming if the Department of
28 Health would fulfill the Department's legal responsibility to
29 classify shellfish growing areas; and
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31 WHEREAS, failure to implement all aspects of the state
32 shellfish sanitation plan prevents sustainable economic
33 development and job creation; and
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35 WHEREAS, the most immediate beneficiaries would be existing
36 aquafarms and operators of traditional Hawaiian fishponds who
37 have shellfish products nearly ready for sale; and
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39 WHEREAS, the Department of Health, due to competing
40 priorities and limited resources, has not moved expeditiously to
41 work with the local shellfish aquaculture industry to provide
42 essential services that would allow sale of locally produced
43 shellfish for local consumption; now, therefore,
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H.C.R. NO. 238

1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
2 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
3 of 2011, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Health is
4 requested to expeditiously take action to certify its water
5 quality testing laboratory for testing and classification of
6 both land- and ocean-based shellfish growing waters around the
7 State, utilize appropriate staff for those purposes, and
8 implement analyses to certify areas that are suitable for
9 classification as shellfish growing areas; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
12 requested to fully implement all components of the state
13 shellfish sanitation plan in a timely manner so that
14 classification of shellfish growing areas can be started
15 immediately; and

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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
18 requested to consult with industry experts and shellfish
19 biologists from the University of Hawaii system to develop a
20 prioritized list of locations for testing and classification;
21 and

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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
24 requested to work cooperatively with all members of the
25 shellfish industry and other interested state agencies to plan,
26 site, and develop expanded commercial culture of shellfish for
27 seed production and seafood production for local consumption and
28 export; and

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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
31 requested to render as much assistance as is possible under its
32 authority to expedite the creation of a bivalve shellfish
33 industry within Hawaii; and

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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Health is
36 requested to submit a report on the actions taken pursuant to
37 this Concurrent Resolution to the Legislature not later than
38 twenty days prior to the convening of the 2012 Regular Session;
39 and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health,
 3 the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, the
 4 Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, and the Director of
 5 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism.

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OFFERED BY:

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