
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AQUACULTURE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 PART I

2 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there is significant
3 commercial opportunity in the aquaculture sector, and Hawaii is
4 uniquely suited for this opportunity. Aquaculture provides
5 increasingly more fish than capture fisheries, so aquaculture is
6 better equipped to meet the growing global demand for seafood.
7 The value of global aquaculture production in 2014 totaled
8 \$165,800,000,000. Furthermore, the demand for aquaculture
9 production is federally recognized. The United States imports
10 ninety-one per cent of its seafood, leading to a \$14,000,000,000
11 trade deficit. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric
12 Administration's "Marine Aquaculture Strategic Plan" for 2016-
13 2020 prioritizes efforts to expand sustainable aquaculture
14 production in the United States by at least fifty per cent by
15 the year 2020. Moreover, seafood and aquaculture technology
16 start-ups raised \$193,000,000 in 2016, which represents a two
17 hundred seventy-one per cent increase over 2014-2015 amounts.



1 Investors and entrepreneurs are becoming aware of the tremendous
2 opportunity within the aquaculture industry.

3 The legislature further finds that Hawaii has a number of
4 competitive advantages in the aquaculture industry, such as
5 abundant natural resources, sophisticated infrastructure within
6 the public and private sectors for developing aquaculture, and
7 expertise in a wide variety of aquaculture species and
8 technologies. The State also has political stability,
9 geographic isolation for biosecurity, and a geographic location
10 between the two largest seafood importers.

11 Further, the natural energy laboratory of Hawaii authority
12 operates a world-class aquaculture facility known as the Hawaii
13 ocean science and technology park. The State has invested over
14 \$120,000,000 since 1974 to develop the Hawaii ocean science and
15 technology park. Given Hawaii's year-round growing climate, the
16 biosecurity of its remote location, and the easy access to
17 pristine seawater at various temperatures, over thirty companies
18 from around the world have located their aquaculture operations
19 at the Hawaii ocean science and technology park.

20 The legislature concludes that establishing an aquaculture
21 incubator at the natural energy laboratory of Hawaii authority



1 would serve to develop Hawaii's aquaculture industry in
2 innovative ways, as well as bring entrepreneurs and investors to
3 Hawaii's aquaculture market. Existing structures at the Hawaii
4 ocean science and technology park can be repurposed to create a
5 facility and program for the aquaculture incubator. The
6 aquaculture incubator would foster collaboration between
7 innovative new aquaculture companies, provide business and
8 scientific mentorship from existing industry experts, provide
9 access to the Hawaii ocean science and technology park's
10 seawater infrastructure, and allow new companies to
11 commercialize their products and secure financing. The
12 incubator will also attract investor capital to Hawaii's
13 aquaculture industry, as well as create high wage-earning jobs
14 in Hawaii.

15 The purpose of this part is to appropriate funds to
16 establish an aquaculture incubator at the natural energy
17 laboratory of Hawaii authority to bring together entrepreneurs
18 and investors to develop Hawaii's aquaculture industry.

19 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
21 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 to



1 establish an aquaculture incubator at the natural energy
2 laboratory of Hawaii authority to bring together entrepreneurs
3 and investors to develop Hawaii's aquaculture industry.

4 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
5 agriculture for the purposes of this part.

6 PART II

7 SECTION 3. The legislature finds that the State has a
8 public interest in diversifying its economy and promoting the
9 development of innovative companies in both the blue tech
10 economy and the aquaculture industry.

11 The legislature further finds that the global aquaculture
12 industry is poised for a sustained period of growth and
13 expansion. Hawaii is home to both pioneering industry research
14 efforts and commercial activities that have made significant
15 contributions to the global aquaculture industry. To capitalize
16 on commercial opportunities, Hawaii must undertake a concerted
17 and collaborative effort to raise its visibility in the global
18 aquaculture industry.

19 The legislature recognizes that the Hawaii aquaculture 2020
20 initiative is a statewide collaborative effort to bring Hawaii's
21 diverse resources in aquaculture into a focused industry effort



1 to grow Hawaii's aquaculture industry. The legislature also
2 finds that public and private stakeholders in Hawaii's
3 aquaculture industry support this strategic initiative in order
4 to build scale in important industry inputs like feed sources
5 and processing capacity and to clarify permitting issues. This
6 strategic initiative should also support the attraction and
7 growth of innovative companies that will create the biological,
8 engineering, and operational solutions that will be demanded by
9 a commercial scale global industry. Beginning these efforts now
10 will allow Hawaii to prepare to showcase its aquaculture assets
11 and successes when Hawaii hosts the Aquaculture America
12 conference in February 2020, at the Hawaii convention center.

13 The legislature further recognizes that Aquaculture America
14 is the largest aquaculture trade show in the western hemisphere,
15 with nearly two hundred booths and over two thousand attendees
16 in recent years. The United States Aquaculture Society joins
17 with the National Aquaculture Association and the Aquaculture
18 Suppliers Association to produce the annual Aquaculture America
19 meetings.

20 The purpose of this part is to provide the funding
21 necessary to support the planning and participation of the



1 Hawaii aquaculture industry in the Aquaculture America 2020
2 conference to be held in Honolulu.

3 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 to be
6 expended for the planning and participation of the Hawaii
7 aquaculture industry in the World Aquaculture Society's
8 Aquaculture America 2020 conference to be held in Honolulu in
9 February 2020.

10 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
11 agriculture for the purposes of this part.

12 PART III

13 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2112.



Report Title:

Aquaculture Incubator; DOA; Aquaculture America 2020 Conference;
Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates moneys for the Department of Agriculture to establish an aquaculture incubator at the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority and to support the planning and participation of the Hawaii aquaculture industry in the Aquaculture America 2020 conference. Effective 7/1/2112. (SD2)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

