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, help with site selection and permitting, product and services marketing, and perhaps most importantly, 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 and to expand the industry statewide.

SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of $ or so
much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 for
operational expenses for the revitalization of the aquaculture
development program.

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.

INTRODUCED BY:

JAN 22 2019
Report Title:
Department of Agriculture; Aquaculture Development Program; Appropriation

Description:
Appropriates funds for operational expenses for revitalizing the aquaculture development program within the department of agriculture.

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