



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism
Friday, February 11, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.

By
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SB 2174 – RELATING TO AQUACULTURE

Chairs Gabbard, Inouye, Wakai, Vice Chairs Nishihara, Keith-Agaran, Misalucha, and members of the committees:

The University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program (Hawai'i Sea Grant) strongly supports SB 2174 to establish an Aquaculture Area Lease Program. This measure specifically allows for the identification of public lands and waters to be leased for commercial aquaculture purposes.

Over the past several years, Hawai'i Sea Grant has been collaborating with the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture on several NOAA-funded aquaculture initiatives including establishing a Hawai'i-Pacific Aquaculture Consortium to promote and expand aquaculture development in Hawai'i and the Pacific region and expanding state-wide workforce development capacity for the aquaculture industry. The outcomes associated with these efforts will be extremely beneficial for the State in terms of food security, STEM education, workforce and entrepreneurship development, as well as aligns closely with the mission of our Center of Excellence for Sustainable Aquaculture and Coastal Resources.

Funding this measure will help to expand current operations and create new opportunities that will support the growth of Hawai'i's aquaculture industry and attract more investors, growers, and aquaculturists, thereby promoting the State's economic development.

Hawai'i Sea Grant's mission is to provide integrated research, extension, and education activities that increase understanding and use of ocean and coastal resources of the Hawaiian and Pacific Islands and support the informed personal, policy, and management decisions that are integral to realizing this vision. Hawai'i Sea Grant is part

of a national network of 34 university-based programs associated with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) that promote better understanding, conservation, and use of coastal resources.

Hawai'i Sea Grant supports the intent of SB 2174 to establish an Aquaculture Area Lease Program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.