



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## ‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

### Legislative Testimony

### Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Water and Land  
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
Monday, January 29, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

By

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And

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Provost  
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#### SB 2148 – RELATING TO AQUARIUM FISH PERMITS

Chairs Inouye and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Elefante and Richards, and members of the committees:

The University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program (Hawai'i Sea Grant) supports SB 2148 provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the University's Board of Regents Approved Executive Supplemental Budget.

Since its inception in 1968 Hawai'i Sea Grant has a longstanding history of supporting aquaculture research through its biennial request for research proposals competition. Hawai'i Sea Grant and its partners have also been conducting aquaculture research through collaboration with academia, government agencies, and nonprofits on extramural funding awards that address contemporary and indigenous aquaculture needs.

Hawai'i Sea Grant strongly supports SB 2148 which "exempts persons engaging in aquaculture research from the aquarium fish permit requirement." The aquarium fish permit requirement is a lengthy process and approving this measure will help to streamline aquaculture research activities by eliminating an unnecessary requirement which more often than not results in a delay of initiating any research project/activity and where these funds supporting these activities are tied to externally determined timeframes.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.