



April 8, 2026

The Honorable Senator Chris Lee, Chair
Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts

The Honorable Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026

RE: Testimony in Support of S.R.125/S.C.R.133, Requesting the Department of Land and Natural Resources, in Consultation with the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity, to Adopt Rules to Prohibit Commercial Octopus Aquaculture.

Dear Chairs Lee and Gabbard:

On behalf of the Center for Biological Diversity and our more than 6,500 members and supporters in the state of Hawaii, thank you for considering our testimony in strong support of S.R.125/S.C.R.133, a resolution to adopt rules to prohibit commercial octopus aquaculture in Hawaii. The Center for Biological Diversity is a leading national 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection of endangered species and wild places since 1989.

With a recent, concerning global rise in interest in growing the commercial octopus farming industry,¹ it is critical to preempt such ventures from taking root in the United States, especially in states like Hawaii where healthy oceans are culturally, economically, and ecologically crucial.

Commercial octopus farming is unsustainable, environmentally destructive, inhumane, and dangerous. Octopus farming can discharge large amounts of dangerous contaminants and pollutants into surrounding marine ecosystems, jeopardizing native wildlife and creating harmful algal blooms and oxygen-depleted “dead zones.” These factory farms also demand large energy and freshwater inputs, which would detract from Hawaii’s sustainability goals. And octopuses require a high-protein diet sourced from wild fish and shellfish, which could substantially increase the burden on marine resources and further deplete fish stocks that the state depends on.

On commercial industrial farms, octopuses are kept in extreme confinement, which is not only inhumane, but also increases the serious risk of parasites and disease spread and mutations. These conditions threaten both the farmed octopuses and existing marine ecosystems. Further, antibiotic use in these facilities risks increasing antibiotic-resistant “superbugs” that threaten human health.

¹ Compassion in World Farming. (2025). *Threat of octopus farming and carnivorous aquaculture expansion*. <https://www.ciwf.org/media-news/press-releases-and-media-statements/threat-of-octopus-farming-carnivorous-aquaculture-expansion-exposed/>



Other states like California² and Washington³ have already passed similar legislation to ban commercial octopus aquaculture. We kindly ask Hawaii to follow their lead to protect the incredible, biodiverse oceans surrounding your state.

Thank you again for considering the Center for Biological Diversity's testimony in support of S.R.125/S.C.R.133. By adopting rules to prohibit commercial octopus aquaculture, Hawaii can better safeguard its environment, wildlife, and public health.

Sincerely,

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² Rust, S. (2024). *Newsom signs bill to ban octopus farming in California*. Los Angeles Times. <https://www.latimes.com/environment/story/2024-09-29/newsom-signs-bill-to-ban-octopus-farming-in-california>

³ Briscoe, K. (2024). *Lawmakers pass legislation that would prohibit octopus farming in Washington*. Lynwood Times. <https://lynnwoodtimes.com/2024/03/07/octopus-farming-240307/>