



June 25, 2014

On behalf of the Hawaii Aquaculture and Aquaponics Association (HAAA) Board of Directors, I invite you to rejoin this association. The HAAA strives to continue to serve the needs of its members in the Hawaii aquaculture and aquaponics industry. The HAAA provided the voice of our industry during the recently completed Legislative session, and will continue to be involved in State and County matters affecting our industry's continuing viability throughout the year and beyond.

We are currently finalizing arrangements for an HAAA educational and social event at Kualoa Ranch scheduled for July 19, 2014 which will be advertised momentarily. I encourage you to renew your HAAA membership for 2014 so that you can join us to see Kualoa's Hawaiian fish pond oyster operations and additional land-based aquaculture ventures, and, over a bento lunch, to discuss and plan for our association's activities for the balance of 2014 and going into 2015. This will be a space-limited event, so please respond early.

As a reminder, HAAA is an all-volunteer, member-run industry association, so your active participation is needed for our association to reach its potential. A recap of our mission and purpose, and a list of our 2013 and 2014 accomplishments to date are provided below for your review. Please join HAAA for 2014 to help us continue such efforts.

Sincerely,  
Ron Weidenbach  
HAAA President

Mission Statement: To foster the development of commercial aquaculture and aquaponics production in Hawaii.

HAAA's Purposes:

- A unified industry voice for Legislative issues
- Networking and fellowship with other aquaculture and aquaponics producers, researchers, and supporters
- Local and national recognition and support of aquaculture, aquaponics, and business related issues
- Business advantages for commercial members

Activity Highlights (2013 and 2104 to date):

Completed participation in the Department of the Attorney General's *Agricultural Buildings and Structures Task Force* which produced a report to the Governor providing background information to support 2013 legislation on an expanded agricultural building permit exemption bill.

Co-sponsored the March 16, 2013 Tilapia Farming in Hawaii Conference at Windward Community College/

Co-sponsored the May 25, 2013 Aquaponics in Hawaii Conference and Networking Reception at Windward Community College.

Participated in the Governor's June 26, 2013 Agriculture Bill Signing Ceremony at the Capitol in which the Agriculture Building Permit Exemption Bill was signed into law, successfully concluding a three-year HAAA legislative effort.

Co-sponsored the July 20, 2013 Induced Spawning of Chinese Catfish Workshop at Waimanalo Agriculture Research Station Aquaponics Laboratory.

Co-sponsored the National Aquaculture Association (NAA) July 29 and 30, 2013 Aquaculture Business Management, Marketing Workshop and Seafood Culinary Education Workshop at UH Manoa and UH Hilo, and the July 31 Seafood Culinary Education Workshop, UH Manoa.

Sponsored Olomana Gardens' September 14, 2013 social event and farm tour featuring Glenn Martinez' airlift water pump systems.

Held November 23, 2013 mini-conference at the Hawaii Agriculture Research Corporation, Kunia, preceded by a farm tour at the Kunia Country Farms aquaponic facility and followed by the HAAA 2013 Annual General Membership Meeting.

Participated in Ag Day at the Capitol on March 28, 2014, promoting Hawaii aquaculture and aquaponics.

Sponsored the April 12, 2014 Aquaponics Water Quality Workshop at UH Manoa, Hale Tuahine.

Supported pro-agriculture legislation and opposed negative agriculture legislation during the 2013 and 2014 State Legislature sessions as an active member of the multi-association Local Food Coalition that also includes the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, Hawaii Cattleman's Council, Hawaii Farmers Union United, Hawaii Food Manufacturer's Association, Hawaii Food Industry Association, Grow Hawaii, 4Ag Hawaii, Ulupono Initiative, and others.

Raised awareness of and provided testimony in opposition to the City and County of Honolulu City Council Bill 34 “Relating to Grading in the Conservation District”, heard April 24, 2014, which would have limited the current agricultural grading and grubbing permit exemption for farmers with approved NRCS farm conservation plans.

Invited by The Senate, State of Hawaii, on May 28, 2014 to participate in the *Cottage Food Business Working Group* with the Director of Health, Ulupono Initiative, and members of the Local Food Coalition to examine the Hawaii Administrative Rules relating to the Food Safety Code.

Participated in May 29, 2014 meeting with City and County of Honolulu, Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) to address DPP’s concerns about Oahu’s illegal agricultural structures to try to head off possible County efforts to have the Agricultural Building Permit Exemption law repealed by the next legislature.

Provided testimony to Hawaii Department of Agriculture on May 29, 2014 to support the listing of Nile tilapia on the List of Restricted B fishes for commercial culture in Hawaii.