



Dear HAAA Members and Members of the Hawai'i Aquaculture and Aquaponics Community,

On behalf of the Hawai'i Aquaculture and Aquaponics Association (HAAA) Board of Directors, I would like to invite you to join or rejoin our association for 2019, if you have not already done so.

The HAAA strives to serve the needs of its members in the Hawai'i aquaculture and aquaponics industry. The HAAA provides the voice of our industry during the annual Hawai'i Legislative session, and is actively involved in State, County, and national matters affecting our industry's continuing viability throughout the year.

The HAAA also initiates and collaborates on periodic events, workshops, and conferences to disseminate relevant research and information on industry opportunities and regulations. The Association is actively involved in the Steering Committee for the World Aquaculture Society's Aquaculture America 2020 Conference to be held in Honolulu. After a relatively slow period, Hawai'i's aquaculture research activities are picking up again, and the HAAA plans to hold a one-day conference in late summer this year.

As a reminder, HAAA is an all-volunteer, member-run industry association, so your active participation is needed for our association to function and reach its potential. As many of the HAAA's activities supporting Hawai'i's aquaculture and aquaponics are not always visible to the membership at large, a recap of our mission and purpose, and a list of our 2018 and 2019 activities and accomplishments to date are provided below for your review. Please join HAAA for 2019 to help us continue and expand our efforts.

Sincerely,  
Ron Weidenbach  
HAAA President

HAAA's Mission Statement: To foster the development of commercial aquaculture and aquaponics production in Hawai'i.

HAAA's Purpose:

- 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

HAAA Activity Highlights (2018 and 2019 to date) include:

- Distributed approximately 100 E-mail notices containing items of local and national interest about aquaculture and aquaponics to HAAA's membership.
- Supported 2018 legislation to establish and appropriate funds for a Hawai'i Aquaculture Accelerator. Act approved and Accelerator is currently recruiting First Cohort.
- Prepared a White Paper titled: Restoring Aquaculture Advocacy in Hawai'i State Government. Used this document to gain support for legislation as detailed below.
- Initiated and supported legislation for the 2019 Hawai'i Legislature:
  1. Senate Bill 753 Relating to Aquaculture to appropriate funds for revitalizing the Aquaculture Development Program within the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) - passed by Senate and House, sent to Governor, currently pending;
  2. SB651 to expand opportunities for farmers to obtain investment capital for their operations on HDOA non-agricultural park lands - deferred until 2020.Sent out notices to membership to encourage members' testimony on important bills.
- Supported additional pro-agriculture legislation and opposed negative agriculture legislation for the 2018 and 2019 Hawai'i Legislatures as an active member of the Local Food Coalition that also includes the Hawai'i Farm Bureau Federation, Hawai'i Cattleman's Council, Hawai'i Farmers Union United, Hawai'i Food Manufacturer's Association, Hawai'i Food Industry Association, Grow Hawai'i, 4Ag Hawai'i, Ulupono Initiative, and others.
- Participated in the Hawai'i Farm Bureau Federation's Ag Day at the Capitol in 2018 and 2019, promoting Hawai'i aquaculture and aquaponics to the legislature and others in attendance.
- Submitted letters of support and oral testimony to the Board of Agriculture for the movement of Nile Tilapia from the Restricted A to the Restricted B List for Commercial Aquaculture Purposes, and subsequently to establish Permit Conditions, with the first Import Permit recently approved.
- Active member of the National Aquaculture Association (NAA) supporting national aquaculture initiatives and opposing inappropriate or detrimental legislation and agency actions.
- Submitted letters of support for maintaining funding for the National Sea Grant College program in the FY 2018 and FY 2019 Federal budget and continuing resolution, with funding being restored and increased in 2018 and actively supported in 2019.
- Submitted letters of support for Hawaii proposals to the National Sea Grant Program to revitalizing the Hawai'i Aquaculture Extension and Education Network and establish a new aquaculture demonstration center at the University of Hawai'i that integrates Land Grant-Sea Grant research, extension and education services. \$1.2 million awarded with additional pre-proposal submitted.
- Submitted letter of support to the U.S. Senate regarding S 3138 Advancing the Quality and Understanding of American Aquaculture (AQUAA Act), in support of offshore aquaculture in Federal waters.
- Submitted letter of support to the U.S. House of Representatives to maintain support for USDA Wildlife Services to prevent, minimize or manage wildlife damage and to protect human health and safety from conflicts with wildlife.
- Submitted letter to the U.S. House of Representatives in support of the package of nine bills filed to create needed changes to the Endangered Species Act to benefit the aquaculture industry.