

**LINDA LINGLE**  
Governor



**SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**DUANE K. OKAMOTO**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 Fax: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**  
Wednesday, February 27, 2008  
10:00 a.m.

**HOUSE BILL 935, HD1  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

House Bill 935, HD1, appropriates funds to pay for the increased cost of, and to attract federal funding for, statewide technical assistance provided to the aquaculture industry through the University of Hawaii Sea Grant Extension Service. The department supports the intent of this bill; however, we have concerns about the possible adverse budgetary impact that this bill may have on the Executive Supplemental Budget request.

In the past five years, the local aquaculture industry has rapidly increased, however costs for materials, supplies and salaries have also increased, eroding the funds remaining for this program. Currently, University of Hawaii Extension Agents must seek outside research contracts to make up salary shortfalls, thus taking time away from their primary responsibility of providing direct assistance to farmers. These requested funds are needed to match and draw down Federal funds for extension services.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

To:

THE HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES  
THE TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2008

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair  
Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

HEARING AGENDA #1

DATE: Wednesday, February 27, 2008

TIME: 10:00 AM

PLACE: Conference Room 308, State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

From: Darren Okimoto, Extension Leader  
University of Hawaii Sea Grant College Program  
Phone: 956-7031, Email: okimotod@hawaii.edu


Re: HB 935, HD1, Relating to Agriculture

Good morning. My name is Darren Okimoto and I serve as the Extension Leader for the University of Hawaii Sea Grant College Program (UH Sea Grant). I am here today to offer written testimony as a private citizen in support of the adoption of House Bill 935, HD1.

UH Sea Grant conducts research and outreach efforts to promote economic, cultural and environmentally sustainable aquaculture activities that reduce pressure on capture fisheries and meet the increasing demand for seafood. As you are aware, Sea Grant aquaculture extension activities are jointly funded through the State of Hawaii Aquaculture Development Program, and focus on industry development to diversify the State's economy.

Continued support from the state is vital to maintaining the high level of commitment that Sea Grant made to serve the needs of aquaculture stakeholders in Hawaii. We currently support five aquaculture extension specialists and agents who are based throughout the main Hawaiian Islands and engage in activities that promote and develop one of the fastest growing sectors of diversified agriculture in our state. These funds will be matched by federal funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, United States Department of Agriculture and Maui County.

With your support, the state can help to ensure the viability of its aquaculture industry by supporting the passage of HB935. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.



**Hawaii  
Aquaculture  
Association**

To: THE HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES  
THE TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2008

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair  
Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

HEARING AGENDA #1

DATE: Wednesday, February 27, 2008  
TIME: 10:00 AM  
PLACE: Conference Room 308, State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

From: Ron Weidenbach, President, Hawaii Aquaculture Association  
Phone: 429-3147, Email: hawaiiifish@gmail.com

Re: HB 935, HD1, Relating to Agriculture

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Committee Members:

The Hawaii Aquaculture Association (HAA) strongly supports **House Bill No. 935, HD1**, which appropriates funds to pay for the increased costs of, and to attract federal funding for, statewide technical assistance provided to the aquaculture industry through the University of Hawaii Sea Grant Extension Service (UH/SGES).

Aquaculture is one the fastest growing segments of diversified agriculture in the State totaling \$21.3M in wholesale product value in 2006. Critical to this continued growth and diversification of aquaculture has been statewide technical assistance provided by the UH/SGES, with highly qualified aquaculture agents based out of UH-Manoa, Windward Community College, UH-Hilo, and Maui Community College. Funding for the program is through matching funds from the U.S. Department of Commerce and the HDOA/Aquaculture Development Program. However, over the years, the costs of materials, supplies and salaries have increased, eroding buying power for the funds available. Currently, Extension Agents must seek outside research contracts to make up salary and operating expense shortfalls, thus taking time away from their primary responsibility of helping farmers on the farm. The negotiated UH salary increases for FY07-08 and FY08-09 have further reduced operating funds and put a critical strain on the program.

The HAA strongly requests the passage of HB 935, HD1, which will provide the additional funding (\$100K) needed to return HDOA/ADP's aquaculture extension support back the original 1:1 State:Federal dollar match needed to continue an effective program. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HAWAII FARM BUREAU FEDERATION  
2343 ROSE STREET  
HONOLULU, HI 96819

FEBRUARY 26, 2008

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 935, HD 1  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairs Oshiro and committee members:

My name is Alan Takemoto, Executive Director, of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, which is the largest non-profit general agriculture organization representing approximately 1,600 farm and ranch family members statewide.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation supports **House Bill No. 935, HD1**, which appropriates funds to pay for the increased costs of, and to attract federal funding for, statewide technical assistance provided to the aquaculture industry through the University of Hawaii Sea Grant Extension Service (UH/SGES).

Aquaculture is one the fastest growing segments of diversified agriculture in the State totaling \$21.3M in wholesale product value in 2006. Critical to this continued growth and diversification of aquaculture has been statewide technical assistance provided by the UH/SGES, with highly qualified aquaculture agents based out of UH-Manoa, Windward Community College, UH-Hilo, and Maui Community College. Funding for the program is through matching funds from the U.S. Department of Commerce and the HDOA/Aquaculture Development Program. However, over the years, the costs of materials, supplies and salaries have increased, eroding buying power for the funds available. Currently, Extension Agents must seek outside research contracts to make up salary and operating expense shortfalls, thus taking time away from their primary responsibility of helping farmers on the farm.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**AQUACULTURE Planning & Advocacy LLC**

47-215 Iulu Street, Kaneohe, HI 96744 808-239-8316 jscorbin@aol.com

To: Committee On Finance  
House of Representatives  
Hawaii State Legislature

From: John Corbin, President  
Aquaculture Planning and Advocacy LLC  
Phone- 239-8316, e-mail [JSCorbin@aol.com](mailto:JSCorbin@aol.com)

Subject: Testimony on HB 935 HD 1, Relating to Agriculture, Hearing Agenda #1

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Committee Members:

I want to express my strong support for HB 935, HD 1, which appropriates funds to address the increased costs of critical statewide technical assistance provided to the aquaculture industry through the University of Hawaii/Sea Grant Extension Service (UH/SGES). The Department of Agriculture, the lead agency for aquaculture, is the expending agency and the place-holding sum of \$1.00 is mentioned.

As the former manager of the State Aquaculture Development Program(ADP), I can speak from first hand experience with how important the UH/SGES has been to growing the local aquaculture industry. By numbers, the majority of our industry are small businesses and family farms located on all the major islands. These farmers usually do not have the full range of technical expertise to tackle all the issues they are likely to encounter in starting and operating an aquaculture business. UH/SGES extension support- which is the envy of the nation- has been absolutely critical in solving problems and bringing new, more cost-effective technologies to these farms. However, the buying power of the funds provided through ADP has been severely eroded over the years by reduced State funding and funding restrictions on the National Sea Grant Program.

Faced with new Program cost increases that will reduce operating funds even further, passage of HB 935 HD 1, with an appropriation of \$100000 would be extremely timely in maintaining the needed level of service to the aquaculture industry. These funds in addition to allowing greater allocation of available funding to on-farm assistance, also will leverage significant federal funds and demonstrate the State's commitment to continued expansion of the aquaculture industry to diversify our economy. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



February 25, 2008

**SUPPORTING THE INTENT OF HB 935 HD1  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 27, 2008, 10:00 A.M.  
HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM 308

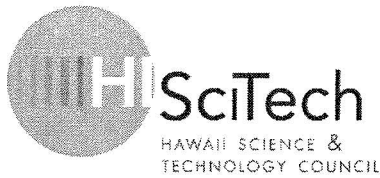
TO: Chair Marcus Oshiro, Vice Chair Marilyn Lee, and Committees Members

Aloha, my name is Bruce Anderson and I am the President of the Oceanic Institute (OI). The Oceanic Institute supports HB 935 HD1 – Relating to Agriculture which requests funding to support statewide technical extension services for Hawai'i's growing aquaculture industry. We urge you and your committee to pass this legislation and provide the \$100,000 needed by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture's Aquaculture Development Program to continue its support of the industry.

The Oceanic Institute, an affiliate of Hawai'i Pacific University, is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to research, development and transfer of oceanographic, marine environmental, and aquaculture technologies. Our role in this industry is to work on new technologies for either the commercial sector or public agency adoption.

The aquaculture industry in Hawai'i is one of the fastest growing sectors of diversified agriculture. To maintain this growth adequate technical assistance through extension services are greatly needed. HB 935 HD1 will address a shortfall in funding for these critical services and allow this important industry to continue its growth and contribution to our state's agriculture industry and economy. This investment will significantly benefit the aquaculture community as a whole and provide the basic services which are critical to the continued growth of this industry in Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**HB935 HD1: RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

**DATE:** February 27, 2008  
10:00 a.m., Conference Room 308

**TO:** Committee on Finance  
Senator Marcus Oshiro, Chair  
Senator Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair

**FROM:** Lisa H. Gibson  
President  
Hawaii Science & Technology Council

**RE: Testimony In Support of the Purpose and Intent of HB 935, HD1**

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Science & Technology Council supports **HB 935, HD1**, which appropriates funds to pay for the increased costs of, and to attract federal funding for, statewide technical assistance provided to the aquaculture industry through the University of Hawaii Sea Grant Extension Service (UH/SGES).

*The Hawaii Science & Technology Council is a private tax-exempt 501(c)6 industry association with a 28-member board. The council serves Hawaii companies engaged in ocean sciences, agricultural biotechnology, astronomy, defense aerospace, biotech/life sciences, information & communication technology, energy, environmental technologies, and creative media.*

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important bill.

Lisa H. Gibson  
President

# AQUATIC INNOVATIONS

2366 KAOLA WAY • HONOLULU, HAWAII • 96813  
PH: 808/585-8600 • Fax: 808/585-8601 • email: aquatic@lava.net

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To: THE HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES  
THE TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2008

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair  
Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

## HEARING AGENDA #1

DATE: Wednesday, February 27, 2008  
TIME: 10:00 AM  
PLACE: Conference Room 308, State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

From: David L. Cohen, Owner, Aquatic Innovations  
Phone: 585-8600, Fax: 585-8601, Email: aquatic@lava.net

Re: HB 935, HD1, Relating to Agriculture

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Committee Members:

Please accept my written testimony in **very strong support** of the adoption **House Bill No. 935, HD1**, which appropriates funds to pay for the increased costs of, and to attract federal funding for, statewide technical assistance provided to the aquaculture industry through the University of Hawaii Sea Grant Extension Service (UH/SGES).

Aquaculture is one the fastest growing segments of diversified agriculture in the State totaling \$21.3M in wholesale product value in 2006. The UH/SGES staff and programs are critically important to health and growth of Hawaii's aquaculture industry. These funds are long overdue.

I would like to register my strong support for the passage of HB 935, HD1, which will provide the additional funding (\$100K) needed to return HDOA/ADP's aquaculture extension support back the original 1:1 State:Federal dollar match needed to continue an effective program. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
David L. Cohen,  
Aquatic Innovations



Commercial Aquaculture



## HAWAIIAN MARINE ENTERPRISES

P.O. Box 301 • Kahuku, Hawaii 96731 • Phone: 293-1230

February 26, 2008

Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair  
House Committee on Finance  
c/o State Capitol Building, Room 306  
415 South Beretania St.  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

I am sending this testimony to express my strong support for HB 935 HD1, "Relating to Agriculture," which would increase funding for the University of Hawaii Sea Grant Extension Service and provide matching funds so that additional Federal funding can be sought.

My company has produced *ogo* and other aquaculture products in Kahuku for the past 25 years. We are said to be the oldest continuously operating aquafarm in the state. Throughout our existence as a business, we have often gone to Sea Grant extension agents based at Windward Community College and UH-Manoa for information and advice. These agents are an important resource for our industry. As aquaculture in Hawaii grows, the need for extension services will grow along with it. I hope, therefore, that you will help support the continued expansion of aquaculture in Hawaii by passing HB 935 HD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frederick M. Mencher".

Frederick M. Mencher  
General Partner

## FINtestimony

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**From:** Bill Spencer [bspencer@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 25, 2008 1:14 PM  
**To:** FINtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Strong Support of HB 935 HD1

**Hawaii Oceanic Technology, Inc.**  
**425 South Street, Suite 2902**  
**Honolulu, Hawaii 96813**  
**808-225-3579**

February 25, 2008

**To:** COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair  
Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

**From:** Bill Spencer, CEO, Hawaii Oceanic Technology, Inc.

**Re:** HB 935, HD1, Relating to Agriculture  
**DATE:** Wednesday, February 27, 2008  
**TIME:** 10:00 AM  
**PLACE:** Conference Room 308, State Capitol

Dear Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Committee Members:

Hawaii Oceanic Technology, Inc. strongly supports **House Bill No. 935, HD1**, which appropriates funds to pay for the increased costs of, and to attract federal funding for, statewide technical assistance provided to the aquaculture industry through the University of Hawaii Sea Grant Extension Service (UH/SGES).

Aquaculture is one the fastest growing segments of diversified agriculture in the State totaling \$21.3M in wholesale product value in 2006. Critical to this continued growth and diversification of aquaculture has been statewide technical assistance provided by the UH/SGES, with highly qualified aquaculture agents based out of UH-Manoa, Windward Community College, UH-Hilo, and Maui Community College. Funding for the program is through matching funds from the U.S. Department of Commerce and the HDOA/Aquaculture Development Program. However, over the years, the costs of materials, supplies and salaries have increased, eroding buying power for the funds available. Currently, Extension Agents must seek outside research contracts to make up salary and operating expense shortfalls, thus taking time away from their primary responsibility of helping farmers on the farm. The negotiated UH salary increases for FY07-08 and FY08-09 have further reduced operating funds and put a critical strain on the program.

Hawaii Oceanic Technology, Inc. strongly requests the passage of HB 935, HD1, which will provide the additional funding (\$100K) needed to return HDOA/ADP's aquaculture extension support back the original 1:1 State: Federal dollar match needed to continue an effective program. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

2/25/2008

Sincerely,

/s/

Bill Spencer  
CEO