

Commercial Aquaculture



HAWAIIAN MARINE ENTERPRISES

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March 11, 2008

LATE Testimony

Representative Clift Tsuji, Chair
House Committee on Agriculture
State Capitol Building
415 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

I am sending this testimony to express my strong support for SB 2639 SD1, "Relating to Loans for Agricultural and Aquaculture Purposes." Given the increasing costs of starting and expanding any agricultural business, and especially aquaculture (which tends to be more capital-intensive than many traditional forms of agriculture), it makes sense to increase the loan limits. I especially applaud the creation of the "new aquaculturist program." I wish such a loan program had been around 25 years ago when my partner and I had to scrape together funding to start our farm.

Over the last 30 years, aquaculture has been one of the fastest-growing sectors of Hawaii's diversified agriculture. Passage of this bill will help it stay that way.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Frederick M. Mencher
General Partner