



**FRESH
ISLAND
FISH^{co}**

Fresh Island Fish Co Inc.
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LATE

Statement of

Crystal Johnson

VP Fresh Island Fish Co., Inc.

in consideration of

**SUPPORT for HB 2041
RELATING TO AQUACULTURE.**

My name is Crystal Johnson. My family owns Fresh Island Fish. We are the largest Seafood Wholesaler in Hawaii with over 100 employees, and in business for over 42 years. We have been involved in aquaculture since 2008 because we see the value in growing our own seafood in Hawaii. We have invested over \$300,000 of our own funds towards creating a locally produced aquaculture feed for shrimp and fish as a way to help this industry grow sustainably.

We firmly believe Hawaii has the opportunity to position itself as a leader in aquaculture. But there are a few key things that need to happen in order for this to take place. First, there needs to be a fostering of economic growth in this industry. I have been travelling to Norway and Iceland recently to work with some of the most successful aquaculture entrepreneurs as well as lawmakers from these countries. The common thread I see is the governments willingness to support and in some cases carefully subsidize the growth of this industry.

Investments raised by seafood and aquaculture startups last year represented a 271% increase over the \$193 million they raised in 2017, (according to AgFunder data). What aquaculture startups still need is a good way to find appropriate testing grounds for their technology.

The proposed aquaculture incubator facilities at Nelha could be used to test out processes and new products for aquaculture. Unlike other business parks, aquaculture business incubation facilities need supplies of filtered fresh water and sea water, discharge capacity, water treatment, storage and distribution systems and various types of buildings designed specifically for aquaculture. These are all readily available at NELHA and nowhere else in the state.

An aquaculture incubator at NELHA has the potential to spinoff new ventures that become key components of the aquaculture industry in Hawaii, creating a minimum of 5-10 jobs immediately. And the new companies that are grown from the incubator could easily create dozens of jobs within several years in Kona and



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the outer islands providing new sources of taxable revenue for the state of Hawaii.

It is our feeling that aquaculture, as an industry has never been as well positioned as it is now to take root and thrive in Hawai'i and that state funding and resources are critical for this emerging industry right now.

We at Fresh Island Fish believe it's in the states' best interest to appropriate funds for developing this industry as it's only a matter of time when aquaculture will become a necessity and not just an alternative as the demand for seafood grows in Hawai'i and throughout the world.

Sincerely,
Crystal Johnson
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LATE

HB-2041-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 7:35:28 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2018 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jinzeng Yang | Individual | Support | Yes |

Comments:

Committee Chair and Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide my testimony.

My name is Jinzeng Yang . I am the Interim Associate Dean for Research at the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources or CTAHR at UH Mānoa.

However, today, I am providing personal testimony.

I strongly support HB2014.

Let me state from the onset of this testimony that, as a member of the faculty and interim Associate Dean for Research of CTAHR at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, it is important to note that aquaculture research and development is important for the seafood production and local food supplies. CTHAR has talented scientists and faculty members who are interested in working with local industry partners for aquaculture technology development. I would suggest the fund will not limited by location, but concentrated on the technology and quality of the project such as innovative technology for marine species culture, breeding and genetics, and molecular biotechnology for efficient breeding.