

To whom it may concern:

As a resident of the State of Hawaii, I and several others are greatly interested in any activities, such as aquaculture (e.g., sea-cage farming) that may have detrimental consequences on our coastal waters which represent an invaluable asset to our major industry, tourism. While recognizing the importance of marine aquaculture we also strongly feel that it should be properly supervised and regulated. Irresponsible or lack of proper quality regulations and monitoring may lead to unwanted changes to the marine waters. Such consequences have been reported in several sites where aquaculture is practiced (e.g., Scotland, Norway, Philippines, etc.). It would be tragic for Hawaii. To prevent such detrimental consequences from occurring we strongly urge the Commission to integrate marine aquaculture into an effective ocean policy program. We need a nationally uniform and consistent approach with proper standards.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Philip C. Loh, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Professor, Department of Microbiology
University of Hawaii, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822