

Letter from the Director

Aloha,

As we reported last month, CTSA is at one of the most critical points in our annual development process. During and after the June 29 IAC/TC meeting, CTSA gathered the individual input and pre-proposal rankings from each participating member to determine which of the 18 pre-proposals would move forward in the process. I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to our Industry Advisory Council and Technical Committee for dedicating their time and expertise to our program development; their participation is essential to carrying out CTSA's industry-driven mission.



Upon detailed review and calculation of the rankings, six pre-proposals received majority support from the IAC/TC and were subsequently asked to submit full proposals. It is important to note that funding is not guaranteed for any project at this stage, but we are looking forward to seeing the detailed plans for each of the six proposals. Twelve pre-proposals were not selected, and PI's were notified accordingly. I would like to thank all of the PI's who submitted pre-proposals for FY21 funding consideration. I especially appreciate the amount of innovative project ideas this year, and want to encourage those PIs who were not selected this round to rethink, revise and resubmit. The selection process at CTSA is very competitive; our IAC and TC care deeply about the investments of the CTSA program, and accordingly they scrutinize each pre-proposal with their essential industry insight and research expertise. Our committees are well-connected to the local and regional aquaculture industries; this helps them understand which projects have the greatest potential for industry acceptance and success. While we do not share every comment made during the meeting, we attempt to capture the most significant input on each pre-proposal and share it with PIs in the hopes of improving future submissions to CTSA and/or other programs.

The most important mandate of the CTSA mission is to support the commercial development of aquaculture in our region. Our committees and administrators want to see projects that will have direct impacts on current operations and/or support the development of important innovative technologies. The success of this mission depends on industry, researchers, and government working together, and our collaboration with you, our valued stakeholders.

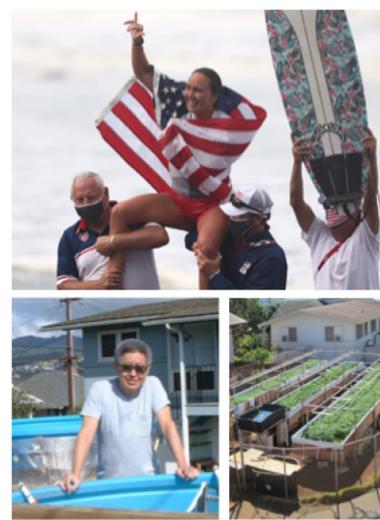
Mahalo,
Dr. Cheng-Sheng Lee
Executive Director, CTSA

A Golden Moment for Hawaii: Congratulations Carissa!

As you have likely heard (or seen for yourself), Hawaiian surfer Carissa Moore won the inaugural gold medal in women's surfing at the Tokyo Olympic Games. Hawaii couldn't be more proud, and there is a special cheering section within our local aquaculture community. Our friend and aquaculture colleague, Fred Lum, is Carissa's grandfather.

CTSA first met Fred during his participation in the Pacific Tropical Ornamental Fish Project, through which he built a medium-scale recirculating aquaculture system in the backyard of his Kaimuki home to produce freshwater fish. He was then inspired by an aquaponics workshop led by CTSA to construct one of the first commercial-scale backyard aquaponics systems on Oahu. Fred would be a clear winner if there were a gold medal for CTSA extension recipients! His

focus from the start was on water conservation and finding effective ways to recycle water at his home in the city. Water indeed runs deep through this gold medal family, and we at CTSA would like to express our congratulations to Fred and his family during this very special time!



Aquaculture Announcements

-- Attention Aquaculture Producers: 2021 COVID-19 Impact Survey

The purpose of the 2021 COVID-19 impact survey --supported by funding from the National Sea Grant Office (NSGO) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)-- is to quantify the effects of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on commercial aquaculture, aquaponics and suppliers during the first half of 2021 (January - June). Please provide responses based on the period of time between January 1st 2021 and June 30th 2021. Survey link: https://virginiatech.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_02iOi5vowseMKmq

This survey should take about 20 minutes of your time to complete. This survey is a continuation of the effort started in 2020 to capture the evolving effects of coronavirus disease (COVID-19), but will be distributed only two times for 2021 (this instance and again in early 2022). Please consider participating in both of the 2021 national surveys. No personally identifiable information (name, address, e-mail, telephone number, IP address, etc.) will be collected. All data from this survey will remain anonymous.

-- FDA Seeking Comments on MUMS

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Center for Veterinary Medicine, is seeking comments from the public to support the Indexing provision of the Minor Use, Minor Species Act of 2004 (MUMS). To read the Federal Register notice and to comment [click here](#). The deadline for comments is September 22, 2021.

-- Reminder: NOAA Public Comment on Programmatic EIS Closes August 5

NOAA has released a [Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement \(DPEIS\)](#) for a potential aquaculture management program in Federal waters of the Pacific Islands Region. NOAA is accepting comments for 90 days through August 5, 2021.

The DPEIS evaluates the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of several management alternatives on the human, physical, and biological environment. This is an opportunity for the public to provide input on the environmental analysis and alternatives within the DPEIS, which NOAA will consider in any final PEIS and within any future management action by NOAA Fisheries and the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council.

-- Reminder: Sign Up For 2022 Census of Aquaculture

The 2022 Census of Agriculture is right around the corner and USDA NASS is making every effort to count all aquaculture producers in the United States. If you produce any aquaculture products and want to make sure that you are counted in the 2022 Census of Agriculture and the 2023 Census of Aquaculture, please sign up your operation using this online form: <https://www.agcounts.usda.gov/cgi-bin/counts/>. Once you have signed up, you might receive a short survey in the next two years to further categorize your operation. Most likely, you will not receive a survey until the 2022 Census of Agriculture in January or February, 2023.

AquaClip: UH Marine Option Program celebrates 50th anniversary

CTSA is proud to share this recent article featuring our Technical Committee member and dedicated program volunteer Tom Iwai. We are honored to work alongside trailblazers like Tom!

A University of Hawai'i program designed to enrich the quality of life of its students and the community by increasing their ocean awareness, understanding and appreciation is celebrating its "golden" anniversary. The Marine Option Program (MOP) turns 50 years old in fall 2021.



Thomas Iwai Jr. and his son

MOP started as an experiential program organized by faculty and students, and funded primarily by the state legislature and grants. Because UH did not offer a marine science-related degree at the time, MOP was created to give students an opportunity to gain experience in this field.

Thomas Iwai Jr. grew up in Hawai'i and loved the water. He was also hooked on a popular TV series in the 1960s called *The Undersea World of Jacques Cousteau*, which featured the aquatic explorations of the legendary French explorer. Iwai Jr. appreciated the program's hands-on approach and eventually became MOP's first graduate in 1972.

Iwai Jr. credited his experience in MOP volunteering with expert Takuji Fujimura at the Ānuenue Fisheries Research Center (AFRC)—part of the State of Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR)—with kick-starting his interest in freshwater prawn culture. He later went on to work with many other freshwater and marine species at AFRC to help in the development of an aquaculture industry in Hawai'i.

"I can't believe it's been 50 years," Iwai Jr. said. "When the program started, there was a need to try and network and gain experience, especially in the marine field. The creation of the program offered that avenue to students, especially local students. It just so happened that I heard about the program and what they were trying to do and offered whatever help I could as a student to initiate the Marine Option Program."

Source: University of Hawai'i News // [Full Article](#)

This newsletter is written and prepared by the CTSA Information Specialist Meredith Brooks.

The Center for Tropical and Subtropical Aquaculture (CTSA) is one of five regional aquaculture centers in the United States established and funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) under active grants 2016-38500-25751, 2018-38500-28886, and 2020-38500-32559. The regional aquaculture centers integrate individual and institutional expertise and resources in support of commercial aquaculture development. CTSA was established in 1986 and is jointly administered by the University of Hawaii and the Oceanic Institute of Hawaii Pacific University.

Center for Tropical and Subtropical Aquaculture
www.ctsa.org

