

## Letter from the Director

Aloha,

As we prepare to mark Memorial Day this weekend and honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service, my thoughts have been focused on colleagues we have lost in recent weeks. The month began with news of the passing of Dr. Donald Lightner, followed by the shocking news of Dr. Lei Yamasaki's passing. Through other communications, I found out that we also recently lost our colleagues Dr. Fred Conte, Dr. Colin Nash, and Dr. Ed Scura. These are significant losses for the aquaculture community; they will all be missed and I salute their contributions to our society.



Death is a final destination that we will all reach someday but some, unfortunately, arrive there too soon. In Hawaii, the sudden passing of rising star Dr. Lei Yamasaki (pictured) caused great sadness among the many people who knew and loved her. It has been a stark reminder that regardless of the length of one's life, the key is to do something memorable for the benefit of society. The value of life is not its length, but rather its depth. One of Lei's greatest professional dreams was to have a USDA-certified diagnosis laboratory to serve the aquaculture community in Pacific region. The week she passed, the lab received its certification. I sent her a congratulatory note and heard the sad news a few days later. I hope she knows that her mission has been completed and the lab will be an impactful part of her legacy. She was such a wonderful researcher and always went the extra mile to do as much for our farmers and industry as she could. Even in her death, her organs saved several lives, and those new lives will do more good things in the world. She may have left us early but she will always be with us; the best way to honor her life and legacy is to follow in her footsteps and not waste any moments or opportunities to create a better future.

To this end, CTSA called for new pre-proposals this month with the aim to assist aquaculture development in the Pacific region. We at the CTSA administrative center are looking forward to seeing the good ideas proposed by researchers in the region. The COVID-19 pandemic has shined a spotlight on the importance of sustainable economic development and food security in the Pacific Islands, and aquaculture has a unique ability to create job opportunities, generate revenue outside of tourism, and decrease reliance on imported food. Thank you in advance for submitting your ideas to our FY21 Call.

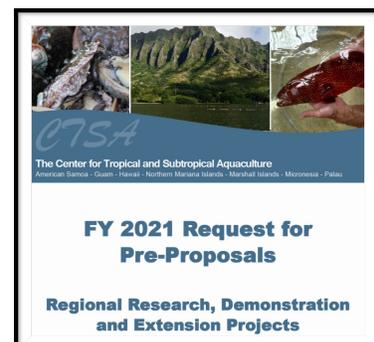
Mahalo,  
Dr. Cheng-Sheng Lee  
Executive Director, CTSA

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## CTSA FY21 Request for Pre-Proposals: Due June 4!

As a reminder, CTSA has released the [FY2021 Request for Pre-Proposals](#) and pre-proposals are due soon! The Request lists the top priority areas and species as identified by industry stakeholders in Hawaii and the U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands, as well as instructions for submitting a pre-proposal by the deadline of 5pm HST on Friday, June 4. As of last year, CTSA is using a standard form for all pre-proposal submissions. Pre-proposal forms can be downloaded on the CTSA website or via request to [mbrooks@cts.a.org](mailto:mbrooks@cts.a.org).

Pre-proposals received by the deadline will be reviewed by CTSA's Industry Advisory Council (IAC) and Technical Committee (TC). Pre-proposals that receive a majority of votes will move forward with requests for a full proposal.



CTSA's mission is to support aquaculture research, development, demonstration, and extension education in order to enhance viable and profitable aquaculture in the United States. Our main focus is on funding projects that will have immediate, positive impacts on the regional aquaculture industry. FY 2021 Strategic Areas & Priority Species include Finfish Farming Technology, Macroalgae/ Microalgae, Aquatic Animal Health, Innovations in Aquaculture Technology, Hawaiian Fishponds, and...[Read More](#)

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## Remembering Our Friend Dr. Lei Yamasaki

*Dr. Lei Yamasaki was a highly respected and valued member of the regional aquaculture community and CTSA family, having served on the CTSA Technical Committee for 8 years. The following is her obituary, prepared by a colleague in our grieving aquaculture community:*

Dr. Lei Sachiko Yamasaki, D.V.M., M.S. unexpectedly passed away on May 8, 2021. Lei was born and raised in Honolulu, HI, graduated from Roosevelt High School, and earned a B.A. in Zoology (with a Marine Options Program Certificate) at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa. She completed an M.S. degree in Animal Sciences also at UHM, and she received her DVM from Western University of Health Sciences in Pomona, CA. During her years as a student, she participated in many programs that led to cherished friendships and future collaborations, including: Hanauma Bay, Oceanic Institute, HDOA Aquaculture Development Program, AquaVet I/II, Los Angeles Zoo, University of Arizona Aquaculture Pathology Laboratory, USGS Honolulu Field Station, USDA APHIS/Veterinary Services, and the University of Florida Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory.



Following graduation, she returned to Hawaii to work at Moana Technologies, LLC and in 2012 joined the Hawaii Department of Agriculture as the Aquaculture Veterinary Medical Officer. At HDOA, she supervised the Hawaii Shrimp Health Certification Program and provided dedicated diagnostic and regulatory services to support the aquaculture industry that she loved. She worked on projects relating to the presence of Nile tilapia and *Francisella noatunensis* subsp. *orientalis* in Hawaii and molecular and histologic diagnostics for fish/shrimp/oyster pathogens. She supported education and aquaculture in the community as a Hawaii State Science & Engineering Fair judge, Technical Committee member for the Center for Tropical and Subtropical Aquaculture, Advisory Subcommittee member on invertebrate and aquatic biota for the State of Hawaii, and many other events with endless energy and a smile that lit up every room.

Lei was a lifelong scholar and never tired of pursuing new projects or learning new things. Yet she still managed to carve time out to enjoy the natural beauty of the world through her hobbies of surfing, hiking, fishing, traveling, conservation, and animal rescue. She was a dedicated and respected veterinarian whose love of animals was evident in the menagerie of animals that she cared for over the years: her beloved Simon, Emma, Mao, Copper, Atsila, and many others.

Lei will be forever remembered and missed by her family (parents Michael and Joann, sister Ann), friends, and colleagues from around the world.

*There will be a memorial planting for Lei at 8am on Tuesday June 8; anyone interested in participating can email Ryan (ryanschang@gmail.com) or text (808-354-3608). There will be a paddle out memorial later that same day at 2:30pm at Kewalo Basin Park.*

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## Aquaculture Announcements

### -- [NOAA Seeking Public Comment on Programmatic EIS](#)

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, and will be holding virtual public listening sessions between June 15 and June 24, 2021. [Click here for additional information.](#)

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.

## -- **USDA Expands Disaster Assistance to Include Fish Raised for Food**

In response to catastrophic aquaculture losses due to major winter storms that hit states along the U.S. Gulf Coast in February, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced a policy change that makes food fish and other aquatic species eligible for the [Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees and Farm-raised Fish Program \(ELAP\)](#). Previously, only farm-raised game and bait fish were eligible for death loss ELAP benefits. Beginning June 1, eligible aquaculture producers can request ELAP assistance for 2021 losses. This policy change is for the 2021 and subsequent program years.

ELAP provides financial assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish for losses due to disease, certain adverse weather events or loss conditions, including blizzards and wildfires, as determined by the Secretary. To be eligible, losses must have occurred on or after Jan. 1, 2021. For farm-raised fish and other aquatic species death losses only that occurred prior to June 1, 2021, FSA is waiving the requirement to file a notice of loss within 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent. An aquaculture producer will still need to be able to provide contemporaneous records upon request to document the eligible loss event and demonstrate the beginning and ending inventory. The deadline to file an application for payment for the 2021 program year is Jan. 31, 2022. The USDA will host a stakeholder webinar regarding these updates to ELAP on Wednesday, June 2, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. (eastern). This webinar is an opportunity for producers to learn about the general application process and required documentation to participate in the program. Producers interested in participating may [click here to register for the webinar](#).

## -- **Free Hatchery Management Webinars**

Hatchery Feed & Management is holding a free webinar series, Trends in Aquaculture Hatcheries, that focuses on different topics of importance for aquaculture hatcheries, such as diseases, breeding and genetics, feeds and water conditioning. The fourth session in the series, Water Conditioning and Probiotics, will be held on June 14 at 7 am HST, 5 pm UTC, 7 pm CET, 12 pm - Guayaquil. One of the main bottlenecks in hatcheries is highly unpredictable mortality and disease control. Probiotics and water conditioning are alternative strategies to manage aquatic diseases in the early stages that have attracted extensive attention in recent years. This webinar will discuss how to improve larval performance through probiotics and microbial management.

- The importance of microbial management during the larval rearing of seabream, Tania De Wolf, R&D Manager, INVE Aquaculture (Benchmark Advanced Nutrition)
- Effect of probiotics and bioremediation in modulating shrimp and water microbiota in shrimp production unit, Stephane Ralite, Aquaculture Product Manager, Lallemand Animal Nutrition
- The importance of ultra-filtration and synbiotics in the hatchery, David Kawahigashi, Director, Vannamei 101
- Probiotics for the hatchery, Stephen G. Newman, President and CEO, Aquaintech

MODERATOR: Ruben Props, Ghent University & KYTOS.

Register here:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_BuybpLD5SjnzK1yLfffdCQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_BuybpLD5SjnzK1yLfffdCQ)

Videos of previous webinars in the series are available here:

<https://youtube.com/channel/UCdeKqn1hEDx1qJq2iq6w2bw>

## -- **New Contact for Hawaii DOA Aquatic Animal Control**

The new contact information for HDOA Animal Disease Control Branch – Aquatic Unit

is [HDOA.AquaVet@hawaii.gov](mailto:HDOA.AquaVet@hawaii.gov) and (808) 483-7106. For now, the Aquatic Unit will be manned by:

Dr. Jason D. Moniz, Animal Disease Control Branch Manager

Dr. Cynthia Kishimoto, temporarily assigned to the Aquaculture Veterinarian Medical Officer position

Ms. Kristy Alvarado, Animal Disease Control Branch Secretary

## -- **New PBS Documentary on Hawaiian Fishponds**

Earlier this month, PBS aired a documentary about Hawaiian fishponds entitled *Kai Piha Na Loko I'a*. The program is available to stream on [pbs.hawaii.org](http://pbs.hawaii.org). [Click here to watch](#).

## -- **Reminder: Sign Up Now 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.

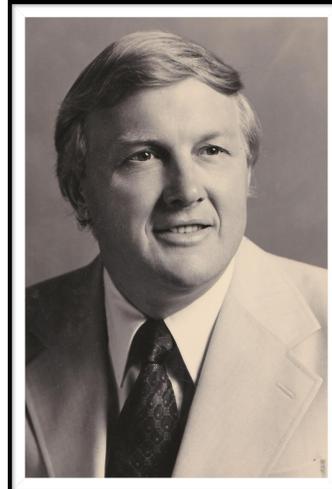
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## Remembering Colin Nash

Colin Edward Nash, long time, highly respected member of the international community of aquaculture professionals, passed away on January 14, 2021 in Bainbridge Island, Washington State, USA, after a long illness. His research experience with mullet rearing led to his being recruited in 1972 to a position as Vice President and Director of Research at the Oceanic Institute (OI). OI had been researching mullet aquaculture,

since the late sixties and developed successful techniques for captive spawning by hormone injection and mass rearing of Grey Mullet larvae. Under Colin's leadership, the Mullet Program refocused on improving larval survival and application of these techniques to other marine fish. As a recognized leader in artificial spawning and larval rearing of marine fish, OI was able to attract Federal and Foundation funding to screen various fish candidates and targeted several reef fish, mahimahi and milkfish and important food species in Southeast Asia. In addition, staff carried out a theoretical feasibility study of open ocean mariculture, which resulted in a workshop and a book, *Open Sea Mariculture*, that received considerable attention.

He left OI in 1978 to join the new consulting firm of Kramer, Chin and Mayo International (KCM) in Seattle, Washington as the Applied Sciences Manager. KCM, the parent company, with experience in designing salmon hatcheries, offered services in engineering, architecture, and applied science. Colin continued with ADCP until 1994 when he became Technical Director of Cofrepeche, France. In 1998 he returned to the United States and joined the aquaculture group at the NOAA Northwest Fisheries Science Center in Seattle, Washington State, and was based at the Manchester Research Station. While working for NOAA he authored several important reports on U.S. planning and policy issues and risk management. He contributed to numerous scientific and technical papers across an enormous range of aquaculture and fisheries subjects, as well as writing a definitive book on "The History of Aquaculture." In his long career Colin touched and improved the lives of many people around the world by encouraging development of aquaculture and providing them the knowledge to be successful.



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## AquaClip: Big Island Aquaculture Gets Boost With Big Grant

The Natural Energy Lab of Hawaii in Kailua-Kona has been awarded a \$1.8 million grant to continue a fruitful aquaculture accelerator program aimed at supporting business retention and growth initiatives at a sustainable technology park.

The Economic Development Administration grant, announced last week, will be matched with \$459,658 in local investment and is expected to create 250 jobs and spur \$40 million in private investment. The money is earmarked to build on a pilot accelerator program launched three years ago that has already proven successful.

Operated by the organization HATCH, the pilot program helped launch several expanding aquaculture businesses on Hawaii island's leeward side.

Building on those advances, the grant will fund four additional years for the accelerator, with the goal of turning the pilot program into a self-sustaining operation where innovative leaders can always look to launch and grow their industry-changing endeavors.

"We want more success stories," said Laurence Sombardier, deputy director for NELHA. NELHA administers the world's premier energy and ocean technology park off the coast of Kailua-Kona. Around 50 businesses call the area in North Kona home.

Thirteen companies took part in the accelerator's first cohort, with another eight participating the second year, during the pandemic.

Source: Honolulu Civil Beat // [Original Article](#)

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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 and 2018-38500-28886. 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.