



Letter from the Director

Aloha,

As we reflect on all that we are thankful for this year, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the stakeholders who continuously help CTSA achieve our annual program goals, especially our Industry Advisory Council, Technical Committee, Board of Directors, and outside expert proposal reviewers. Without these dedicated people, our program would not be what it is today.

In addition, I would like to thank our PI's (and their host institutions) who work diligently to improve regional aquaculture through research, demonstration, and outreach activities.

Partnership is the cornerstone of the Regional Aquaculture Center program, and I am very grateful for the partners we have throughout the region and beyond, including you! I hope you are enjoying a happy Thanksgiving holiday with your family and friends.

Mahalo,

Cheng-Sheng Lee

Executive Director, CTSA

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Hawaii-Based Aquaculture Companies Participate in Global Fish 2.0 Business Competition

Earlier this month, representatives from two Hawaii-based aquaculture companies traveled to California as finalists in the international Fish 2.0 competition.

According to the [organization's website](#), "Fish 2.0 is a business competition that connects sustainable fishing and aquaculture businesses with potential investors. Competitors improve their business models and learn how to approach investors. In turn, participating investors gain early access to new deals and learn how sustainable seafood can help build their portfolios."



The final event of the months-long competition took place at Stanford University, where 18 finalists and 19 runners-up presented their ideas to judges and a large group of investors. Entries were broken down into categories of *Pre-Revenue*, *1-3 years in Business*, and *3+ years in Business*, with two awards in each category for *Strongest Market Potential* and *Greatest potential for social and environmental impact*. Six first-place winners were announced and awarded a \$5,000 cash prize at the event; the second and third place winners in each category will be selected and notified in the coming weeks.

Kampachi Farms Mexico, the offshoot of Kona-based Kampachi Farms, took home the top prize for *Strongest Market Potential* in the *Pre-Revenue* category. Company founder Neil Sims led the



First place winners of the 2015 Fish 2.0 competition.

presentation about the new Kampachi (*Seriola rivoliana*) farming enterprise in Mexico. The other Hawaii-based finalist team of Blue Farms Hawaii & Hawaii Fish Company also competed in the *Pre-Revenue* category. Ron Weidenbach, owner of Hawaii Fish Company and CTSA IAC Chair, presented plans for a commercial-scale aquaponics venture on the North Shore of Oahu along with his collaborator Andrew Bodlovich from Blue Farms.

The two farms have been in talks for a couple of years about joining forces to introduce the innovative and patented Blue Farms aquaponics technology in Hawaii, where an unsustainable dependence on imported goods is a significant

concern. "The idea is to create organic and food safety certified products for a broader local market, not just high-end customers and stores," stated Weidenbach.

The Fish 2.0 competition served as the perfect place to 'test the waters' with potential investors. Although Weidenbach explained that the ultimate goal is to have "locally owned/funded operations producing food for local consumption," there was much value to participating in the international competition. "The training support provided through the 4-stage process was very beneficial and informative for us as a company," exclaimed Weidenbach. "This was a wonderful, well-organized program, with a lot of enthusiasm from finalists, runners up, and the audience."

For more information on the Fish 2.0 competition, first-place winners and other competitors, visit the website www.fish20.org

CTSA Article Featured in Nov/Dec Issue of 'Global Aquaculture Advocate'

CTSA is pleased to share the following article, published in the current issue of the Global Aquaculture Alliance magazine 'Global Aquaculture Advocate.' The article discusses the unique opportunities for aquaculture development in the CTSA region, and highlights some of the recent and ongoing CTSA-supported aquaculture activities in Hawaii and the Western Pacific Islands.

[Click here to read the full online version of the article.](#)

Pacific Island Communities Support Aquaculture Development Overfishing, climate change highlight need for alternative production methods by Meredith Brooks

The Pacific Islands are a vast, remote region home to pristine ecosystems and environmental conditions that are ideal for aquaculture. While there has been some localized industry development, the isolation of the region presents distinct challenges and opportunities.

In contrast to the mainland, where land space and capacity to produce large quantities of food are ample, farming resources in the Pacific region are limited, and large-scale development is unlikely. Thus, regional industry stakeholders must look for innovative ways to make a positive impact on the future security of the local seafood supply.



In the Marshall Islands, giant clams are harvested for local consumption or grown for aquarium trade as a means to increase community/individual income.

Regional Aquaculture Centers

Fish is a staple protein for most Pacific Islanders, and fishing is an integral part of many community

traditions and local economies. However, increasing threats from overfishing and climate change highlight the serious need for alternative methods of local seafood production and economic advancement throughout the region. To address this issue, multiple institutions and federally funded programs have come together to spearhead aquaculture efforts in Pacific Island communities.

The Regional Aquaculture Center Program was established by the United States Department of Agriculture in 1986 to integrate individual and institutional expertise and resources in support of commercial aquaculture development. Its Center for Tropical and Subtropical Aquaculture (CTSA) assists aquaculture development in Hawaii and the U.S.-affiliated Pacific Islands, with annual funding support for various research, demonstration and extension projects.

Together with industry partners, CTSA emphasizes the importance of developing aquaculture in a way that preserves the unspoiled environments and honors the unique traditions of this region. Unlike most other places in modern society, the Pacific Islands are home to a palpable history of community-based living. While each community is different, most are steeped in customs of working together for the benefit of everyone.

Resource Management

Elaborate resource management systems like the Hawaiian "ahupua'a," a complex system of land division used by ancient Hawaiians, were dependent on the collective labor of the community to gather and produce food. Currently, community farming has mostly fallen by the wayside. The overall sense of community throughout the region, however, is still very strong. This "foundation of livelihood" has been a largely untapped resource in modern development efforts, yet holds the key to the most effective way to achieve positive impacts from aquaculture in the region...

[Click here to read the full article on the GAA website.](#)

AquaClip ~ Hawaii Aquaculture Sales Set Record

by Nathan Eagle, www.civilbeat.com, November 2, 2015

Hawaii aquaculture sales reached a record high in 2014, according to an annual report released Monday by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Sales totaled \$78.2 million last year, which is several million dollars more than the previous year and more than double the sales from a decade ago.

Algae contributed \$33.1 million and 42 percent of the sales, according to the USDA's National Agriculture Statistics Service.

It's unclear how much shellfish, finfish, ornamental fish and other aquaculture crops were produced last year because the data was all lumped into the "other" category instead of being segregated by type.

[Click here to read the original article](#)

[Click here to read the PDF released by the National Agriculture Statistics Service](#)

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 2010-38500-20948, 2012-38500-19566, and 2014-38500-22241. 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 Oceanic Institute and the University of Hawaii.



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