

## Letter from the Director

Aloha,

I would like to start this Thanksgiving message by expressing my sincerest appreciation for you, our valued stakeholders, for your continued support of our program. As the CTSA team reflects on all that we are grateful for, I am drawn to thoughts and memories of all of the collaborative work that it has taken to develop Hawaii aquaculture to its current status. Even though we may not have much large-scale production in our region, the aquaculture industry has greatly benefitted from the research, training, extension, and political support that originates here. Currently, Hawaii's Senator Brian Schatz along with two other legislators is leading the charge for U.S. offshore aquaculture. Schatz is the latest in a line of Senators from Hawaii who have been instrumental in aquaculture development. Many in our region may not be aware that local, national --and in some respects, global-- aquaculture owes much of its success to the late Senators Daniel Inouye and Daniel Akaka.

Senators Inouye and Akaka were instrumental in the establishment of the USDA Regional Aquaculture Center (RAC) program, as well as critical facilitators for many important aquaculture projects over the past 4 decades. For example and on a personal note, Senator Inouye helped secure the necessary federal and state support for the Oceanic Institute finish program's milkfish project (which I participated in) to transition the market from reliance on wild populations to hatchery production. Both Senators were also key agents behind the establishment of the shrimp consortium; the millions of people around the world who enjoy eating farmed white shrimp owe them a small debt of gratitude. To honor the contributions of the Senators and other important players responsible for regional aquaculture development, CTSA will be conducting a series of interviews in 2022 to document the recent history of aquaculture in Hawaii (past 5 decades).

CTSA is blessed to have many of those important regional players serving on our Industry Advisory Council and Technical Committee. I am increasingly thankful for their unified effort in support of our program. In addition to helping steer CTSA and our regional industry through their respective roles, many of them dedicate extra time to our program by serving as project liaisons. We are currently in the midst of our semi-annual project update conference calls with each project's PI(s) and liaison to touch base and expand on the information in the project's annual report. It is great to talk with everyone, and I am very pleased with the progress of all of the ongoing projects.

As we fill ourselves to the brim with gratitude (and good food), we here at CTSA wish you and your family a warm and loving Thanksgiving holiday.

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



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## Reminder: Seeking Input from Hawaii Farmers and Other Stakeholders Using Aquatic Feeds

CTSA is soliciting survey input from the local aquaculture industry to understand the demand for local feed production in Hawai'i. This survey is part of a NOAA-funded study that is being conducted to assess the economic feasibility of local aquatic feed production in Hawai'i.

The survey will ask questions about your fish production, fish feed demand, and demography (e.g. age, gender, etc), and will take around 15-20 minutes to complete. Participation is voluntary and survey results will be kept confidential and will not be traceable back to you. Aggregated findings may be shared in publications or presentations with any potential identifiers.

[Click here to take the survey.](#) Your participation in this survey (and others like it) is critical to the progress of regional aquaculture. Thank you for taking the time to share your input.



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## Aquaculture Announcements

### -- [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



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## AquaClip: Offshore aquaculture bipartisan bill reintroduced in U.S. congress

Three U.S. senators including Brian Schatz of Hawaii reintroduced legislation in the U.S. Senate to support the development of offshore aquaculture industry in the U.S. The bipartisan bill, the Advancing the Quality and Understanding of American Aquaculture (AQUAA) Act, would increase production of sustainable seafood through the raising of fish in federal waters and it would create opportunities for new American jobs.

“The expansion of American aquaculture is an opportunity for federal lawmakers to address some of the most critical challenges we face, including climate, economic, and food security,” said Sarah Brenholt, campaign manager of Stronger America Through Seafood (SATS). “Establishing an offshore aquaculture industry would spur economic growth and create new jobs at a time when we need it most.”

The bipartisan AQUAA Act would establish National Standards for offshore aquaculture and clarify a regulatory system for the farming of fish in the U.S. exclusive economic zone (EEZ). The bill would also establish a research and technology grant program to fund innovative research and extension services focused on improving and advancing sustainable domestic aquaculture.

Expanding America’s aquaculture production into federal waters would help revitalize the seafood industry, which has been gravely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. It will also create new job opportunities in coastal communities, where fishing jobs are often limited and seasonally dependent, by providing year-round employment opportunities that would supplement wild-capture jobs.

Aquaculture would also create opportunities in other industries, such as agriculture, by providing a new market for U.S. farmers of crops such as soybeans, corn and peas, which can be used to create fish feed and ease pressure on ocean resources while lessening dependence on uncertain foreign trade relationships. Additionally, growth of farmed fish would support other related industries, including manufacturing, feed production, food processing and food service.

“Aquaculture is the fastest-growing food production sector, but the U.S. lacks a comprehensive, nationwide system for permitting in federal waters,” said Wicker. “This deficiency prevents the development of aquaculture farms, leading to more seafood imports. Our legislation would establish national standards for offshore aquaculture, enabling U.S. producers to create jobs and meet the growing demand for fresh, local seafood.”

Source: [Aquafeed.com](https://www.aquafeed.com) // [Full 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, 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.

