
MAHALO FOR A GREAT PARTY!

The Executive Committee of the Sierra Club, Oahu Group extends its sincere gratitude and appreciation to the following members, friends and businesses who supported Pa`ina o ka `Aina. Attendees were treated to the scrumptious pupus and an inspiring presentation by Jack Jeffrey of the conservation and restoration efforts at Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge. We were even blessed by showers from above. Thanks to your support, more trees will be planted, more people will enjoy the outdoors, and our campaigns to protect open space will continue.

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Mahalo for making our work possible

The Sierra Club, Hawaii Chapter gratefully recognizes the generous contributions of its members and friends during the 2003 calendar year. We extend our appreciation of your support by acknowledging your gifts on the following pages. We thank you for your commitment to ensuring that Hawaii's beautiful places will exist for our keiki for generations to come. *Note: Every effort was made to ensure the accuracy of this report. We deeply regret any error or omissions and ask that oversights be brought to the attention of the Sierra Club, Hawaii Chapter by emailing the Chapter Treasurer at nara72@netzero.com.*

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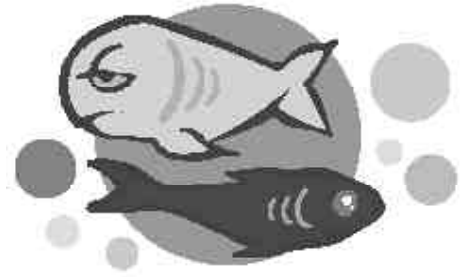
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FISH FARM FEUD

by David Kimo Frankel (outgoing Chair)



Depending on your perspective, the Hawai'i Chapter ExComm is preoccupied counting the number of angels on a pin—or in the midst of a substantive philosophical dispute. At the October meeting of the ExCom, a majority of the members appeared to support a policy on ocean fish farms that would tolerate those fish farms that could satisfy a set of stringent criteria. Some members felt that since no fish farm will ever satisfactorily address our concerns, we should oppose all new fish farms. Please take a look at the two draft policies and send us an email (mikulina@sierraclub.org) or a letter with your thoughts.

FISH FARM POLICY

Policy Statement Alternative 1

It shall be the policy of Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter, to oppose any new ocean-based fish farm unless each of the areas of concern are satisfactorily addressed.

Areas of Concern

1. The State Department of Health has not established water quality standards protective of both human health and ecological quality. It does not have the staff to adequately monitor existing water quality. Until ecologically-based water quality standards are enacted and enforced, the State risks jeopardizing the ecosystem by allowing new fish farms to operate.
2. A fish farm's use of antibiotics, pesticides, alien species and genetically-modified organisms can have long-term devastating impacts on the ecosystem. No fish farm should be permitted that uses any of these.
3. Privatization of public space compromises public rights and leave future generations to deal with unforeseen consequences. Private interests have resisted efforts to convert, for example, old public land leases to more environmentally appropriate uses (Kawainui Marsh, Pu'uwa'awa'a). Fish farms should not restrict the use of surface waters by anyone.
4. Fish farms should not protrude above the water and marrr scenic vistas.
5. Fish farms should leave a sizeable bond with the state so that they can be cleaned up in case the company goes out of business.
6. Fish farms should be engineered so that turtles, dolphins, whales and other marine life do not become entangled in any nets.
7. Fish farms should have low densities in order to ensure to prevent nutrient overloading and the creation of a disease breeding ground.
8. Fish farms should not be stocked from the wild since doing so does nothing to foster long-term health of fisheries.
9. Fish farms should not threaten the sustainability of subsistence fishing practiced by native Hawaiians.

FISH FARM POLICY

Policy Statement Alternative 2

Whereas the State risks jeopardizing the native ecosystem by allowing open-netcage aquaculture to operate;
Whereas open-net aquaculture use of antibiotics, pesticides, alien species and genetically-modified organisms can have long-term devastating impacts on the ecosystem;
Whereas open-netcage aquaculture can entangle turtles, dolphins, whales and other marine life in nets;

continued on following page

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Fish Farm Policy Statement Version 2, continued

Whereas open-netcage aquaculture with high densities can be disease breeding grounds and add too many nutrients to the ecosystem;

Whereas open-netcage aquaculture that is stocked from the wild does nothing to foster long-term health of fisheries;

Whereas open-netcage aquaculture may threaten the sustainability of subsistence fishing practiced by native Hawaiians;

Whereas privatization of public space compromises public rights and leaves future generations to deal with unforeseen consequence;

Whereas open-netcage aquaculture may restrict the use of surface waters;

Whereas open-netcage aquaculture protrudes above the water and mars scenic vistas;

Whereas the State Department of Health has not established water quality standards protective of both human health and ecological quality and does not have the staff to adequately monitor existing water quality;

Whereas ecologically-based water quality standards are not enacted nor enforced by the State;

Whereas open-netcage aquaculture companies cannot be held to clean up in case the company goes out of business;

The Hawai'i Chapter of the Sierra Club believes that there is no assurance that the ecological impact from open-net aquaculture can be benign. Any benefits derived are outweighed by risks to healthy wild fish populations and potential harm to the ocean environment. We therefore do not support open-net aquaculture at this time.

