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March 16, 2003

Land Division
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Kalanimoku Building, Room 220
1151 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, HI 96809

RE: Public Comment on Conservation District Use Application HA-3118, Open Ocean Fish Farm, North Kona, Hawaii

Dear Friends:

As a life-long fisherman, I strongly object to the proposed exclusive use of our ocean resources for the proposed Open Ocean Fish Farm in North Kona, Hawaii.

Reasons in support of my opposition include the following:

1. To allow exclusive use of an area of our open ocean is contrary to traditions and practice as it relates to the use of the oceans which has always been open to all in common with each other. To grant one individual or one corporation the exclusive use sets a dangerous precedent where, if the State of Hawaii is to be even handed, many other permits would possibly be required to be issued in the future for other fish farms.
2. If fish farms are to have exclusive use of areas of our ocean up to 80 acres, why not fishermen? As a fisherman I would like nothing better than to have an exclusive 80 acre parcel in the open ocean with a permit to allow the setting of a fish attracting device (FAD). If a system of exclusive use is to be established it should include not just fish farmers but, also, fishermen as to the opportunities for exclusive use.
3. Fish farms have a significant risk of damaging the environment. It is well documented that there is a significant risk of disease being transferred to wild species outside the farm by farm fish escaping their enclosure. In addition, waste from the operation is likely to create adverse consequences to Hawaii's beautiful waters. There is no justification for allowing these risks to be incurred.
4. It is also been the experience in other areas of the United States, especially in Alaska, where fish farms have been destructive to the economies of existing commercial fishermen and fish processors. As a result, the legislature in the State of Alaska has an outright prohibition on fish farms and for good cause.

I would also like to register my objection to the fact that the information relating to this application is only available in Honolulu when the fish farm is proposed for the Island of Hawaii. At a minimum, all information relating to this application should be available in Kona as well as in Hilo so that those persons most impacted can have reasonable access.

In any event, please consider this my public comment and objection to the issuance of the proposed use application HA-3118 Open Ocean Fish Farm, North Kona, Hawaii.

Sincerely,



Fred A. Yeck