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**HAWAII FISH COMPANY INC.**

*North Shore AquaFarm*

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CITY CLERK  
HONOLULU, HAWAII

City Bank TIGR Award  
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Special Congressional Recognition

Honorable Councilman and Chair, Ernie Martin  
City Council  
City and County of Honolulu  
Via e-mail <http://www.honolulu.gov/council/emailcc1.htm>

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT GRANT-IN-AID AMENDMENT BILL 11 (2013), CD2

Dear Council Chair Ernie Martin and Councilmembers,

Hawaii Fish Company (HFC), formed in 1978, has been operating on the North Shore of Oahu for more than 25 years. HFC is a member of the North Shore Chamber of Commerce and a founding member of the North Shore Economic Vitality Partnership. I am writing in strong support of the \$75,000 Grant-in-Air Amendment, Bill II (2013), CD2; \$25,000 of this grant-in-aid will support the North Shore Economic Clusters of Opportunity Strategic Plan.

The current lack of economic opportunity on the North Shore, our service-driven economy, and the high cost of living are the underlying drivers of unemployment and underemployment, and the increase in homelessness, drug use, and the departure of kamaaina from the region. These problems underscore the urgency of our community's focus on increased job creation and economic diversification.

To help address these problems and opportunities, North Shore community leaders want to better understand the region's rapidly changing economic environment. The North Shore Economic Clusters project will develop an actionable, industry-driven strategic plan that is supported by data and a framework for implementation.

Broad community support already exists for this important project, and includes: The North Shore Economic Vitality Partnership, the North Shore Chamber of Commerce, and representatives from local small and large businesses, the North Shore Community Land Trust, OHA, and Kamehameha Schools. Preliminary financial support of \$90,000 has already been raised from Kamehameha Schools, The Atherton Family Foundation, Turtle Bay Resort, the State Office of Hawaiian Affairs, First Wind, Kualoa Ranch, Kahuku Sugar Mill, Van's Triple Crown of Surfing, Monsanto, Lucky and Marilyn Cole, Syngenta, Kua Aina Burgers and Scott Wallace. **However, City and County of Honolulu support is required for our community to pursue federal support applications (EDA, USDA, etc.).**

Across the country, rural regions are partnering with the private sector through the cluster process to drive economic recovery. HFC hopes that you will see the importance and value of this community-driven economic development opportunity, and respectfully requests your support of the subject Grant-in-Aid Amendment, Bill 11 (2013), CD2.

Sincerely,



Ronald P. Weidenbach  
HFC Co-owner/Manager