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# NATURAL ENERGY LABORATORY OF HAWAII AUTHORITY

An Authority of the State of Hawaii attached to the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism



February 11, 2020

FEB 23 2020

Ms. Kathleen S.Y. Ho, Director  
Office of Environmental Quality Control  
235 South Beretania Street, Suite 702  
Honolulu HI 96813

**Subject: Exemption Notice for Kowa Premium Foods Corp. Hawaii - Big Island Abalone, New Visitor Center for Big Island Abalone on NELHA Land, Tax Map Keys: (3) 7-3-043: 86, 76 (por.), and 85 (por.), North Kona District, Hawaii Island, State of Hawaii**

Dear Ms. Ho:

This letter serves as notification to the Office of Environmental Quality Control that NELHA has determined that additional environmental review is not required for a proposed expansion of an existing abalone farm on NELHA Land. The existing facility occupies TMK (3) 7-3-043:86, while the new development is proposed on portions of adjacent parcels TMK (3)7-3-043:76 and 85.

Two-prior accepted Environmental Impact Statements, published in 1985 and 1992, describe anticipated impacts of development of the Hawaii Ocean Science and Technology (HOST) Park - including on lands applicable to the existing Big Island Abalone site, as well as the proposed expansion parcels. These evaluations were included in the assessment of several build-out scenarios intended to include future improvements, allowing for flexibility to adapt to current market and technology conditions. The 1992 document specifically addresses a development scenario of a much larger scale and footprint than that currently proposed, on land directly adjacent to the proposed Project site.

NELHA has determined that the proposed expansion is consistent with the location, types and scale of scenarios evaluated in the prior EIS documents, and that the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the project have been adequately disclosed and evaluated therein, and therefore that the Findings of No Significant Impact (FONSI) in those reports satisfy the requirements of chapter 343 HRS for the proposed expansion pursuant to HAR Section 11-200.1-11.

Accordingly, we request publication of this notification in the next available edition of the Environmental Notice pursuant to HAR section 11-200.1-4.

If there are any questions, please contact me at (808) 542-4622 or send me e-mail at [gregory.p.barbour@hawaii.gov](mailto:gregory.p.barbour@hawaii.gov).

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory P. Barbour".

Gregory P. Barbour  
Executive Director

CC: Patrick Seguirant Architect