



# NATURAL ENERGY LABORATORY OF HAWAII AUTHORITY

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



February 1, 2021

Mr. Keith Kawaoka, Acting Director  
Office of Environmental Quality Control  
235 South Beretania Street, Suite 702  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

**Subject: Notice of No Further Environmental Review Required for Island of Hawai'i  
Aquaculture Growth Project (US Economic Development Administration proposed  
project EDA control No. 116496) on NELHA Land, Tax Map Key: (3) 7-3-043:42 and  
(3) 7-3-043:101, North Kona District, Hawaii Island, State of Hawaii**

Dear Mr. Kawaoka:

This letter serves as notification to the Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC) that NELHA has determined that additional environmental review is not required for a construction project proposed on NELHA land and funded by the the US Economic Development Administration (EDA).

The project, which is pending an award from EDA, is an economic development project with the majority of monies allocated to continued funding of an existing aquaculture business accelerator. The project also proposes construction to improve existing aquaculture accelerator facilities including 1) the installation of two pre-fabricated outdoor meeting pods, each enclosing 100 Square feet, in NELHA's Research Campus at TMK (3) 7-3-043:42, 2) adding a 300 square feet of covered outdoor fabrication area to an existing maker space in NELHA's Research Campus at TMK (3) 7-3-043:42, and 3) improving an existing graded space at TMK (3) 7-3-043:101 to serve as a staging area for a fleet of 6 mobile laboratory vehicles whose primary function is to facilitate research in the park and elsewhere on the island of Hawaii. The mobile lab fleet staging area will include an individual wastewater septic system and provide power and potable water hook-ups for the vehicles.

A prior accepted Environmental Impact Statement, published in 1985, describes anticipated impacts of development of the Hawaii Ocean Science and Technology (HOST) Park - including on lands applicable to NELHA Research Campus and the location of the mobile lab staging area. 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 above referenced EIS specifically addresses the development of areas to perform R&D to commercialize innovative aquaculture technologies.

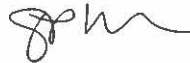
Letter to OEQC  
Island of Hawaii Aquaculture Growth Project EDA grant project  
January 28, 2021  
Page | 2

NELHA has determined that the proposed expansion is consistent with the location, types and scale of scenarios evaluated in the prior EIS document, and that the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the project have been adequately disclosed and evaluated therein, and therefore that the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) in that report satisfies 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,



Gregory. P. Barbour  
Executive Director