



# NATURAL ENERGY LABORATORY OF HAWAII AUTHORITY

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



August 31, 2021

Mary-Alice Evans, Director  
Office of Planning and Sustainable Development  
235 South Beretania Street, Suite 702  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: Notice of No Further Environmental Review Required for Blue Ocean Barns Algae Production and Processing Facility on NELHA Land, Tax Map Key: (3) 7-3-043:091, 73 (por.) and 77 (por.), North Kona District, Hawaii Island, State of Hawaii

Dear Director Evans:

This letter serves as notification to the Environmental Review Program that NELHA has determined that additional environmental review is not required for establishment of a new aquaculture facility for production and processing of algae on NELHA land.

The development by Blue Ocean Barns is intended to support production of a dried seaweed product to be used as a feed additive for cattle. Due to the metabolism of some of the bacteria in the bovine digestive system, cows are a significant source of methane gas worldwide. Methane is an important contributor to the global "greenhouse effect", and the algal product in question reduces the biological production of that gas in cows without affecting the health of the animals. If broadly adopted, it may result in slowing the rate of global climate change.

The algae production and processing facility is proposed on 10 acres of currently vacant and partially graded land in NELHA's Hawaii Ocean Science and Technology park. A current archaeological survey has found that project will have no effect on significant historic properties, and NELHA has requested SHPD's concurrence on this conclusion. The build-out is to include a 12,00 Sq.Ft. single-story pre-engineered metal building for administrative offices, lab space and algae processing operations, 6 pre-engineered greenhouse structures of approximately 3,500 Sq.Ft. each, and 6 acres of outdoor seawater aquaculture tanks (covered to exclude birds).

Prior Ch343 Determination  
Blue Ocean Barns Algae Facility  
August 31, 2021

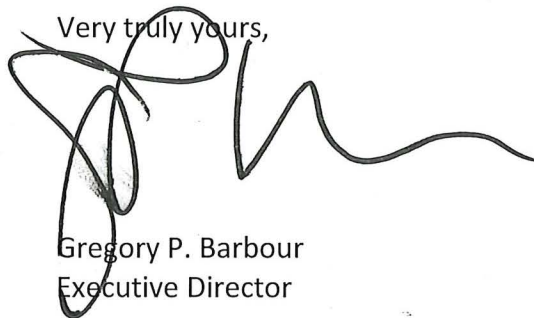
Two-prior accepted Environmental Impact Statements, published in 1985 and 1992, describe anticipated impacts of development of the Hawaii Ocean Science and Technology Park - including on lands proposed for the Blue Ocean Barns site. These evaluations were included in the assessment of several build-out scenarios intended to include future improvements, allowing for flexibility to adapt to current market and technology conditions.

NELHA has determined that the proposed development 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 telephone 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, consisting of a large, stylized 'G' followed by a wavy line.

Gregory P. Barbour  
Executive Director

cc: Joan Salwen, Chief Executive Officer – Blue Ocean Barns, Inc.

**From:** [webmaster@hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [DBEDT OPSD Environmental Review Program](#)  
**Subject:** New online submission for The Environmental Notice  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 1:54:28 PM

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**Action Name**

Notice of No Further Environmental Review Required for Blue Ocean Barns Algae Production and Processing Facility on NELHA Land, Tax Map Key: (3) 7-3-043:091, 73 (por.) and 77 (por.), North Kona District, Hawaii Island, State of Hawaii

**Type of Document/Determination**

Prior Chapter 343 determination (explain in Summary below)

**HRS §343-5(a) Trigger(s)**

- (1) Propose the use of state or county lands or the use of state or county funds

**Judicial district**

North Kona, Hawai'i

**Tax Map Key(s) (TMK(s))**

(3) 7-3-043:091; (3) 7-3-043:073 (por.); (3) 7-3-043:077 (por.)

**Action type**

Agency

**Other required permits and approvals**

SMA; Hawaii County Building Permit

**Proposing/determining agency**

Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority

**Agency contact name**

Alexander Leonard

**Agency contact email (for info about the action)**

[alexander.leonard@hawaii.gov](mailto:alexander.leonard@hawaii.gov)

**Agency contact phone**

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Kailua-Kona, HI 96740  
United States  
[Map It](#)

**Was this submittal prepared by a consultant?**

No

**Action summary**

The Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawai'i Authority has determined that additional environmental review is not required for establishment of a new algae production facility on NELHA land. Two prior Environmental Impact Statements describe anticipated impacts of development of the Hawai'i Ocean Science and Technology (HOST) Park - including on lands proposed for this project. These evaluations assessed build-out scenarios intended to include future improvements, allowing for flexibility to adapt to current market and technology conditions. NELHA has determined that the proposed development 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 that development have been adequately disclosed and evaluated therein, and therefore that the Findings of No Significant Impact (FONSI) in those reports satisfy the requirements of HRS Chapter 343 pursuant to HAR Section 11-200.1-11.

**Attached documents (signed agency letter & EA/EIS)**

- [Blue-Ocean-Barns-OPSD-Letter\\_210831.pdf](#)

**Authorized individual**

Alexander Leonard

**Authorization**

- The above named authorized individual hereby certifies that he/she has the authority to make this submission.