

## **Hawaii Statewide Aquaculture Industry Summit Attracts Global Investors**

October 19, 2017. The Natural Energy Laboratory Authority of Hawaii (NELHA) will host the Hawaii Statewide Aquaculture Industry Summit: The Future of Hawaii's Blue Economy on November 16, 2017. The event will be held at NELHA's Hale Iako, an innovation center on the grounds of its Hawaii Ocean Science Technology Park.

The global aquaculture industry is poised for a sustained period of growth and expansion. Hawaii is home to both pioneering industry research efforts and commercial activities that have made significant contributions to the global industry.

Greg Barbour, the Executive Director of NELHA said, "The Hawaii Statewide Aquaculture Industry Summit is the kick-off event to prepare Hawaii to showcase its aquaculture assets and successes when Hawaii hosts the World Aquaculture Society's Aquaculture America 2020 Conference in February 2020 at the Hawaii Convention Center." Barbour noted that, "if Hawaii is to capitalize on the commercial opportunities in the global aquaculture industry it will have to undertake a concerted and collaborative effort to raise the global visibility of its commercial aquaculture industry. "

The Hawaii Statewide Aquaculture Industry Summit: the Future of Hawaii's Blue Economy is the first step in organizing for the 2020 conference. Hawaii Aquaculture Industry stakeholders are invited to:

- Participate in the statewide industry summit to develop the best strategies for Hawaii to highlight its many strengths at the World Aquaculture Society's Aquaculture America 2020 Conference to be held in Hawaii in February 2020. The conference sessions include breakout sessions to discuss and share recent success stories, near-term opportunities for the industry, and the policies and resources needed to keep Hawaii's aquaculture industry globally competitive.
- Join global companies, industry investors, State and Federal policy makers, researchers and State development agencies to learn about global industry trends and opportunities for Hawaii to participate in the expected growth and expansion of the aquaculture industry. Investors representing two funds investing in global aquaculture opportunities and a Hawaii based investment fund investing in local food opportunities will be on hand to discuss the current investment environment for Hawaii aquaculture companies.
- Enjoy an evening networking reception with heavy pupus featuring locally grown seafood. The Keynote Speaker will be Michael Jones, President of The Maritime Alliance, a non-profit group that has successfully positioned San Diego as a center of the Blue Economy. He will speak on the importance of organizing regional Blue Tech Clusters to compete in the rapidly growing global aquaculture industry.

Registration for the event is available at <https://goo.gl/24E6tv>

**About Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority**

NELHA administers the world's premier energy and ocean technology park. This unique master-permitted park is located on 870 acres of prime coastal property in Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i and offers research support facilities for the development of renewable energy and other demonstration projects that utilize the unique resources found at the park. It is the world's largest facility that continually brings ashore high quality, pristine supplies of both warm surface and cold deep seawater 24 hours a day with views to reap economic potentials from the dual temperature seawater delivery system and high solar insolation. Tenants located in HOST Park work at the pre-commercial, commercial, research and educational levels. It is the largest diversified economic development project in the State and is solely focused on developing green economic projects and is home to over 30 leading aquaculture companies engaged in broodstock/seedstock production, algae production, hatchery operations and open ocean farming. More information on NELHA can be found at [nelha.hawaii.gov](http://nelha.hawaii.gov).