

HAWAII FISH COMPANY INC.
North Shore AquaFarm

March 7, 2014

Aloha,

My name is Ron Weidenbach, Co-Owner of Hawai'i Fish Company, and a natural resource manager by undergraduate and graduate education and professional experience, and I am testifying in strong support of Hawai'i Dairy Farms. The Hawaii State Constitution directs us to become more sustainable in our food production, and there is an increasing realization locally, nationally, and globally of both the nutritional and economic benefits of increasing local food production. The proposed pasture-based dairy project on Kauai by Hawai'i Dairy Farms provides an excellent opportunity for Hawai'i to take an important step forward in that very positive direction towards increased local food production and food self-sufficiency, and in so doing, improving the future food security for our highly isolated island home.

Hawai'i Dairy Farms was formed to help provide fresh, affordable local milk for Hawai'i's residents and visitors. The Kauai farm site was selected following a multi-year, statewide search for a favorable pasture location to best support Hawai'i's first pasture-based rotational grazing dairy, which will serve as a sustainable model for soil regeneration by recycling all farm-generated nutrients back into the soils to provide vital nutrients to grow the grass to feed the cows. This productive, science-based, sustainable dairy methodology will be an excellent use of these designated Important Agricultural Lands, and help showcase agriculture as a viable, important, and satisfying outdoor career option for our State's youth.

In summary, the proposed pasture-based dairy is an important, well-planned, and sustainable local food production opportunity. The project draws on local, national, and global experts to provide the latest in dairy science and ensure economic viability of this project. I strongly support this project and respectfully ask for your support of this important local food production initiative.

Sincerely,



Ronald P. Weidenbach
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