

The Role of UH Engineers in Bringing Food Security via Aquaculture to Hawai'i

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3:00-3:30 pm Coffee Hour

3:30-4:45 pm Seminar

Abstract

There is a fast growing movement to increase self-sufficiency and to ensure food security for the people of Hawai'i via Aquaculture. Aquaculture is a fast-growing industry trying to meet increasing worldwide demand for fish, shellfish, seaweeds, and other aquatic species. Fish and other aquatic species are bred, grown, harvested, and processed under controlled conditions designed to maximize yield and profits and minimize costs and environmental impacts. Today, with the increased interest in aquaponics, the aquaculture farmer need to have the solve issue related to recirculating aquaculture systems (RAS) while dealing with terrestrial agriculture produce. Aquaculture has emerged as a national topic of discussion. In 2009, President Obama charged the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force with developing recommendations to enhance our ability to maintain healthy, resilient, and sustainable ocean, coasts, and Great Lakes resources for the benefit of present and future generations. Additionally, in 2011, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and Department of Commerce released national aquaculture policies to enable the development of sustainable marine aquaculture that considers broader social and economic impacts. For the most part, aquaculture engineering deals with water quality, facilities, equipment, processes, and systems needed to grow and harvest aquatic animals and plants for commercial purposes. There are few formal education programs around the world devoted specifically to aquacultural engineering. People practicing in this field typically have degrees in aquaculture, the biological sciences, or traditional engineering disciplines, such as agricultural engineering or environmental engineering. Taken all this together, what is the future of aquaculture engineering at UH and how can our current faculty and students help to shape the future of aquaculture and food security in Hawai'i?

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Please join us for the coffee hour at the seminar venue a half hour before the seminar, 3:00 – 3:30 pm