

KA OHANA O NA KUPUNA O KONA

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Mr. Neil Anthony Sims
Vice-President/Research Director
Kona Blue Water Farms
PO Box 525
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Aloha Mr. Sims:

Our organization, Ka Ohana O Na Kupuna O Kona, cannot endorse your plan to establish offshore fish farming in our Kona waters for the following reasons:

Many of the species of fish will be costly to feed. The cost of fish food, divers maintaining cages, initial costs for cages and anchoring lines, maintenance costs for cages, etc., all add to the per pound price. The cost of fish farming will be passed on to us, resulting in higher prices for fish. If not marketed here, the fish will be sold outside of Hawai'i to make money.

The fish will not have natural food which God provided for them. These fish feed on algae which lie inside the flat bed and coral reefs. Polyps are 1/4 inch or smaller and are invisible to the human eye.

The fish are not necessarily compatible to live in a small space and you will end up needing that amount of cages times the number of fish species you intend to farm.

Our local fishermen only take what they hook. We need to take care of our home first. What will happen to these fishermen? For many years our fishermen have been using our Kona waters with no problems.

Our Kona waters cannot be compared to other islands. Kona doesn't have sandy beaches like the other islands do. In many places here, the sandy bottoms are not that deep and are seasonal. This is where the Kona crab, nabeta and weke'ula are.

The pollution on the bottom will need to find outlets, and that outlet will be our shoreline. It will not be dispersed by currents in the deeper waters, but rather driven to shore when the winds are strong. Over time the pollution will accumulate, smothering and killing the life below.

Many fish buoys placed in our Kona waters have broken loose, become lost at sea and drift upon the shore. What makes Kona Blue Water Farms think its cages are safe two miles out? You cannot fight nature.

The site you are proposing lies within the humpback whale sanctuary and that area is given to protect the whales during their migration, especially the young calves traveling with their mother. The whales will be hurt by the moorings and web mesh.

Our kupauna group does not endorse your proposal for fish farming. If our ocean fish population is in major decline, as you say, the only alternatives are to limit the size and quantity from our oceans, or to work with our people to restore the Hawaiian fishponds on Hawai'i, Maui and Moloka'i.

Ka Ohana O Na Kupuna O Kona cannot and does not endorse Kona Blue Water Farms' open ocean aquaculture project.

Aloha ke Akua,

Lily Makuahine Namakaokaia Haanio Kong
Po'o