

PACIFIC BUSINESS NEWS

LATEST NEWS

Pacific Business News (Honolulu) - 9:28 AM HST Tuesday

Hawaii aquaculture business grows

The value of Hawaii-grown aquaculture now exceeds \$28 million a year, reports the [National Agricultural Statistics Service Hawaii Field Office](#).

In 2004, it totaled \$28.1 million, up 2 percent from 2003. Algae, other aquaculture and finfish increased in value.

Algae accounted for 45 percent of the value and amounting to \$12.6 million, followed by shellfish with \$8.3 million, comprising 30 percent of the total. The 'other' category, which includes ornamentals, seed stock, brood stock, and others accounted for 18 percent or \$5.2 million and rising 20 percent above the 2003 total. Finfish increased 14 percent to \$2.0 million and making up the remaining 7 percent.

[Cyanotech](#) and [Mera Pharmaceuticals](#) (formerly [Aquasearch](#)), both tenants of the [Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority](#), grow microalgae in water drawn by NELHA from the deep Pacific off the Kona coast to produce plant food, animal feed and pills for people, all containing algae-derived antioxidants.

Seed stock and brood stock refer to different forms of breeding "baby fish" or "baby shellfish" for buyers to grow to maturity elsewhere. There are NELHA tenants doing this and the [Oceanic Institute](#) does it on Oahu.

Around the islands:

- The Big Island leads the state in aquaculture sales with \$21.2 million or 75 percent of the total value.
- Honolulu contributed \$5.2 million or 19 percent of the total.
- Sales from Kauai and Maui County accounted for the remaining 6 percent.

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