



Palau Aquaculture Alliance

President
Kenneth Mereb
Secretary
Omar Faustino
Spokesperson
Melwert Tmetuchl



Main Activities

- The face and voice of Palau's Aquaculture Industry
- Discussing and planning future aquaculture projects
- Facilitating between Government and local farmers
- Creating proposals and analyses to improve the aquaculture industry
- Spreading awareness
- Researching and developing the industry

Background of Establishment

Palau Aquaculture Alliance (PAA) was established in November 2020 as an NGO, to support the sister organization, Palau Aquaculture Cooperative Association (PACA).

Purpose

To help aquaculture farmers in Palau grow their businesses and expand the aquaculture industry, creating more opportunities and stability for the individual farmers.

Member's Voice Mr. Melwert Tmetuchl



We are a new organization working closely with the PACA, hoping to make a difference in the aquaculture industry in Palau, giving farmers easier access to products and materials necessary to expand their businesses. We have over 40 members, but most of them are inactive farmers due to the lack of seedlings being distributed to them. The pandemic drastically decreased the number of flights coming into Palau, limiting imports and exports.

PAA's mission statement is to advocate for the development of a sustainable aquaculture industry by working with stakeholders to facilitate capacity-building opportunities and strategic partnerships. Palau's aquaculture industry is thriving and is a major component of the economy that increases food security, provides sustainable livelihood options for Palauans, and helps restore and safeguard our ecosystems and traditional conservation values.

Palau has a long history of aquaculture, going back to the 1930s when the Japanese government created a research facility, which was later continued by the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and Palau governments supplemented with Peace Corps volunteers in the field. However, not much has changed or expanded since, and that's what we aim to change. Within our members, we cover a variety of products including clams, fish, crabs and shrimps. We have been involved in providing live baits for the fisherman in the tuna industry, helping create small rabbit fish farms and mangrove crab farms and many others.

We have been heavily dependent on the government in the past, but with constant changes in administrations, it has been difficult to maintain a stable system for the farmers. We hope in the future, we can build our hatchery for the local farmers to have easy access. This will enable a consistent flow of seedlings and provide financial opportunities for these local farmers to grow their businesses, ultimately improving Palau's food security.

We believe Palau needs a sustainable system to be implemented for all the farmers creating more opportunities within Palau as well as abroad. We look forward to collaborating with different organizations in the future and continuing to improve the aquaculture industry.

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