



## TE RUNANGA O TE WHĀNAU

### **Support for the Resource Consent for 10,000ha of seawater space**

Te Runanga o te Whānau would like to note the support for three of our Hapu, Te Ehutu, Kaiaio and Kahurautao – partners in the proposed development of 10,000 hectares of our tribal seawater space.

This important co-development of between hapu in aquaculture initiatives connect mātauranga tuku iho and applied science at a hapū, whānau and Marae based level is one way we can demonstrate our aspirations for self-determination. One we can demonstrate how we balance the economic realities of developing a new primary industry, while balancing the environmental imperatives and socio-cultural benefits our Iwi, hapu and whanau while simultaneously increasing our community wellbeing. Knowledge and benefits created where we interweave our ancestral skills with our people into a mutually inclusive space cannot be overestimated.

It is our aspiration to reconnect our whanau with the moana. By developing a kaupapa Māori aquaculture Industry initiatives and innovation across the Bay of Plenty has the potential to deliver substantial rewards for our Iwi, other Iwi and Aotearoa New Zealand more generally.

This consent will herald in exciting new opportunities for our people. Not only will it provide exciting new economic opportunities, this new and exciting water space will also provide significant research and development opportunities across the rohe moana – we are already partnering with Waikato University, Cawthron Research Institute, Ferrier Research Institute et al. to explore, with us, how we do this. Put another way, this is an exciting opportunity for true collaboration where both mātauranga Māori and marine science complement each other.

Finally, we also seek to support true international partnerships being developed by Te Huata to develop these seawater spaces – with some of the best scientists in the world – a truly seminal moment in our history. As an Iwi developing our capability, economic and research opportunities for our people, with our people and other experts is a key strategic objective of our Iwi. And, working with and alongside those with this knowledge is instrumental in achieving this. This seawater space provides the opportunity for us to do all of this – and more.

Ngā mihi

Rikirangi Gage  
CEO Te Runanga o te Whānau

Matetu Herewini  
Chair Te Runanga o te Whānau