

GM 267

LINDA LINGLE  
Governor



State of Hawaii  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512

SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DUANE K. OKAMOTO  
Deputy to the Chairperson

TESTIMONY OF SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 2008, 2:45 P.M.  
ROOM 224

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 267  
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS OF THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION,  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, ROBERT EARL COOPER,  
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2012

Chairperson Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support for the consideration and re-confirmation of Mr. Robert Earl Cooper to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC).

Mr. Cooper has a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from Washington State University. He is a retired CEO from W.H. Shipman, Limited where he managed 17,000 acres of land in the Puna district of Hawaii Island, which included leasing land to farmers, industrial and commercial development and fiscal management. Mr. Cooper was the Senior Vice President of Development for the Blackfield Hawaii Corporation where he oversaw the development of real property from acquisition to sale and developed high rise condominiums, high rise office buildings and shopping centers.

Mr. Cooper's professional affiliations include President of Junior Achievement for Hawaii Island, Chair of the Peanut Butter Ministry of the Methodist Church in Hilo (feed homeless people twice a week), former President of the Hawaii Island Chamber of Commerce and Instructor at the University of Hawaii Hilo teaching Real Estate Finance and Development. He is presently a board member of the Board of the Arc of Hilo and

the Agribusiness Development Corporation. Mr. Cooper is an avid outrigger canoe paddler and is the President of the Lanikai and Kamehameha (Hilo) Canoe Clubs and Vice President of the Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association.

Mr. Cooper has expertise in real estate acquisition, lease negotiation, industrial and commercial development and fiscal management. He is highly regarded in the community and has been an invaluable asset to the ADC Board of Directors.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support for Mr. Robert Earl Cooper's re-confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.



STATE OF HAWAII  
**AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**  
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**TESTIMONY OF ALFREDO LEE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
AGRICULTURE AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

Tuesday, April 1, 2008  
2:45 p.m.  
Room 224

**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 267  
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD  
OF DIRECTORS OF THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION,  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, ROBERT EARL COOPER,  
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2012**

Chairperson Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) is in strong support of the re-confirmation of Mr. Robert Cooper to the ADC Board of Directors.

Mr. Cooper has served on the ADC Board since July 2005. His background as former President and CEO of W.H. Shipman Ltd. brings extensive real estate experience to ADC. He is familiar with agricultural lands and farming operations. He sits on ADC's Kekaha Committee and has actively negotiated with the farmers and the cooperative on agreements and land licenses.

Besides serving on the ADC Board, Mr. Cooper keeps himself active with a soup kitchen in Hilo and serves on various county and non-profit boards. For over a year, he was the interim executive director of the Bay Clinic. In his spare time he paddles with a canoe club and rides a motorcycle. He is well known and respected on the Big Island. ADC has been fortunate to have Mr. Cooper on our board.