

GM 293

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. 293
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ADVISORY
COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDES, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, DON R. GERBIG, FOR
A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2012

Chairperson Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the reappointment of Don Gerbig for the Advisory Committee on Pesticides. Mr. Gerbig has been an active participant on the committee for the past 4 years. He has attended all the meetings and contributed to discussions. He volunteers for projects and participates at all levels including a subcommittee on the development of retail signs and coordination of regulatory approaches with industry stakeholders he represents.

Mr. Gerbig serves in the position designated as the pesticide industry seat on the committee. He worked for Amfac in agricultural chemicals sales, sugarcane field operations and environmental affairs beginning in 1967 and continuing to 1997. He then resumed work in agricultural chemical sales at Brewer Environmental Industries, Kauai Branch until 2002. He was nominated to serve on the Advisory Committee by the Western Plant Health Association, Hawaii Chapter, which represents the pesticides industry in Hawaii. Mr. Gerbig's considerable management experience and knowledge of pesticides ranging from sales and use to environmental issues concerning pesticides makes him a valuable resource to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

His reappointment for an additional four years is strongly recommended.



Hawaii Farm Bureau
F E D E R A T I O N

2343 Rose Street, Honolulu, HI 96819
PH: (808)848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921

APRIL 1, 2008

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

TESTIMONY ON GM 293
DON R. GERBIG

Chair Tokuda and Committee Members:

My name is Alan Takemoto, Executive Director, of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, which is the largest non-profit general agriculture organization representing approximately 1,600 farm and ranch family members statewide.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF) strongly supports the nomination of Don R. Gerbig to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides. Mr. Gerbig's agricultural background and experience in environmental stewardship issues would be an asset to the State of Hawaii if appointed to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation is pleased to support the nomination of Don R. Gerbig to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides. We hope that you will give Mr. Gerbig's nomination to this position serious consideration.



Hawaii Agriculture Research Center

99-193 Aiea Heights Drive, Suite 300

Aiea, Hawaii 96701

Ph: 808-487-5561/Fax: 808-486-5020

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

GM 293

CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDES

**of
DON R. GERBIG**

April 1, 2008

Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

My name is Stephanie Whalen. I am President and Director of the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center (HARC). I am testifying today on behalf of the center, our research and support staff, and our members and clients.

HARC strongly supports the Consideration and Confirmation of DON R. GERBIG to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides (GM 293).

I have known Don Gerbig for over 20 years both in his professional capacity and on a personal level. I have great respect for Don's abilities to work through complex issues from different perspectives, and feel he will be a great asset to the Committee.

In all of Don's professional capacities throughout this time, as a sugarcane field production supervisor and an environmental and safety specialist, he has demonstrated his thoroughness and diligence in dealing with various subjects. Personally handling and supervising others in the safe and responsible use of pesticides was one of many tasks Don has had much experience in. Following that with the responsibility for corporate stewardship and regulatory compliance has given Don a tremendous breadth of experience to bring to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides. Few people have such a broad experience that ranges from a user, to from one setting corporate policy and stewardship.

HARC is extremely pleased that Don is willing to volunteer for this committee.

HARC strongly urges you to confirm DON GERBIG'S appointment to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.



HAWAII AGRICULTURE RESEARCH CENTER

FORMERLY HAWAIIAN SUGAR PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION

99-193 AIEA HEIGHTS DRIVE, SUITE 300, AIEA, HAWAII 96701-3911

TELEPHONE: (808) 487-5561 FAX: (808) 486-5020

<http://www.hawaiiag.org/harc>

February 15, 2008

The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture
and Hawaiian Affairs
State Capitol, Room 218
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Tokuda:

Subject: Letter of Recommendation for Don R. Gerbig

I have known Don Gerbig for over 20 years both in his professional capacity and on a personal basis. He has been an extremely responsible person in his handling of company issues involving pesticides over the years.

As a sugarcane field production supervisor and an environmental and safety specialist, Don has demonstrated his thoroughness and diligence in dealing with various subjects. Don's a great educator when it comes to pesticide and industrial chemical issues involving handling, application, and disposal. Personally handling and supervising others in the safe and responsible use of pesticides was one of many tasks Don has had much experience in. Following that with the responsibility for corporate stewardship and regulatory compliance has given Don a tremendous breadth of experience to bring to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

I have great respect for Don's abilities to work through complex issues from different perspectives. Don's knowledge of pesticide products would be a real asset to the state Advisory Committee on Pesticides and I highly recommend him for a position on the Committee.

Sincerely,

Stephanie A. Whalen
President and Director,
Experiment Station



Maui County Farm Bureau

*An Affiliate of the American Farm Bureau Federation and Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation
Serving Maui's Farmers and Ranchers*

April 1, 2008

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

TESTIMONY ON
GM 293
DON R. GERBIG

Chair Tokuda and Committee Members:

My name is Warren Watanabe, Executive Director of the Maui County Farm Bureau, a non-profit general agriculture organization and an affiliate of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation.

MCFB strongly supports the nomination of Mr. Don Gerbig to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides. Mr. Gerbig's strong agricultural background, coupled with his many years working with Environmental Stewardship matters provides him with a valuable basis for providing insight into matters before the Committee.

We respectfully request your support in appointing Mr. Gerbig to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides. Thank you for this opportunity to provide this opinion.

P.O. Box 148
Kula, HI 96790

ph: 808 2819718
email:mauicountyfb@hotmail.com



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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON AGRICULTURE and HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**CONFIRMATION OF DON R. GERBIG
FOR
THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, ADVISORY
COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDES
February 2008**

Dear Chairman Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

STRONG SUPPORT.

My name is Loren Mochida, General Manager for Tropical Hawaiian Products (THP) in Keaau, Hawaii. THP is a processor and exporter of Hawaiian Premium papayas to CONUS and Japan.

I am in strong support of the confirmation of Mr. Don R. Gerbig for the State Department of Agriculture, Advisory Committee on Pesticides. Along with his strong leadership skills, his organizational development has been exceptionally outstanding.

I have worked together with Mr. Gerbig in the sugar industry off and on for over fifteen years. He has been extremely responsible person in his handling of company issues involving pesticides over the years.

Mr. Gerbig has been a great educator when it comes to pesticide and industrial chemical issues involving handling, application, and disposal. His performance to relate and work with various groups was outstanding.

I feel that Mr. Gerbig, with his knowledge of pesticide products would be an asset to the State Advisory Committee on Pesticides and I highly recommend him for a position on the Committee.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide support for the confirmation of Mr. Don Gerbig as a member of this committee.



February 19, 2008

The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture
and Hawaiian Affairs
State Capitol, Room 218
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Letter of Recommendation for Don R. Gerbig

Dear Senator Tokuda:

Don Gerbig and I have worked together in the sugar industry off and on for over fifteen years. He has been an extremely responsible person in his handling of company issues involving pesticides.

Don has been a great educator when it comes to pesticide and industrial chemical issues involving handling, application and disposal. Were it not for him, we certainly would have made some serious mistakes in proper handling of these materials.

Over the years we worked closely together on many pesticide application issues, including implementation of safety training and record keeping.

I feel that Don, with his knowledge of pesticide products, would be a real asset to the State Advisory Committee on Pesticides and I highly recommend him for a position on the Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frederick H. Kubota', is written over a horizontal line.

Frederick H. Kubota
President
BEI Hawaii Distribution



Maui Land & Pineapple Company, Inc.

February 18, 2008

**Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs
State Capitol, Room 218
Honolulu, HI 96813**

Subject: Letter of Recommendation for Don R. Gerbig

I have known and worked with Don Gerbig in agriculture for many years. He has been extremely knowledgeable and a responsible person on agricultural and pesticide issues.

He has been very informative and helpful to all agricultural operations, especially when it comes to pesticide and industrial chemical issues involving handling, application and disposal.

I feel that Don Gerbig is a tremendous asset to the state Advisory Committee on Pesticides and I highly recommend him for reappointment on this important committee.

Sincerely,

Wesley M. Nohara
General Manager
Kapalua Farms, ML&P Inc.



KAUAI COMMERCIAL COMPANY, INC.

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February 15, 2008

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs
State Capitol, Room 218
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Letter of Recommendation for Don R. Gerbig

Don Gerbig and I have worked together in the Hawaiian Sugar Industry (25years) and in the Construction industry, (5 years) and in the Transportation Industry.(5 years) In the Sugar Industry, we worked on different Plantations with various Pesticide applications and results. Normally the Hawaiian Sugar Planters Association would be involved with Pesticide trials and there evaluations.

While in the Construction Industry I utilized Dons knowledge to write procedures and policies that were lacking in our Company. These guide lines were to be conforming to City and County of Honolulu, State of Hawaii and Federal US Military Regulations relative to work sites and various Quality control requirements.

In Transportation, Interstate and Inter Island Cargo containers as well as loose freight and various Chemicals are regulated by different authority at different stages of transport. Don has been a ready resource for me to call upon.

Don is very knowledgeable on pesticide products and their ingredients and would make an excellent contributor to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides for the Hawaii State Department of Agriculture.

Very truly yours,

Thomas H. Hoxie
Vice President & General Manager

TWIN BRIDGE FARMS
P. O. Box 31
Waialua, HI 96791

February 15, 2008

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs
State Capitol, Room 218
Honolulu, HI 96813

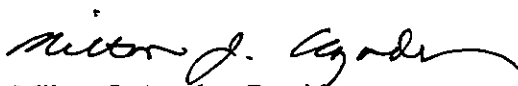
Senator Tokuda:

Subject: State Department of Agriculture
Advisory Committee on Pesticides
Letter of Recommendation for Don R. Gerbig

Don Gerbig and I worked in the sugar industry for many years. Most of those years were in management and field operations. Although we worked for different sugar companies we often attended the same meetings and served on the same committees.

Don has always been an extremely responsible person in the handling and application of pesticides. Pesticides and their application was a significant part of a sugar company's budget. Sugar companies were always faced with new issues regarding new chemicals, changes in chemical labels and most recent, the new federal worker protection laws. Don was always involved in these issues and provided guidance to others working in the sugar industry.

I feel that Don, with his knowledge of pesticide products, from following label requirements to safety issues regarding handling and applications, make him highly qualified to serve on this committee.



Milton J. Agader, President
Twin Bridge Farms, Inc.

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs
State Capitol, Room 218
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Letter of Recommendation for Don R. Gerbig

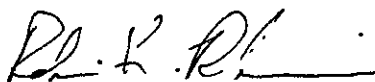
Don Gerbig and I have worked together in the sugar industry off and on over the past fifteen plus years. He has been an extremely responsible person in his handling of company issues involving pesticides over the years.

He has been a great educator when it comes to pesticide and industrial chemical issues involving handling, application and disposal. Were it not for Don, we certainly would have made some serious mistakes in proper handling of these materials.

Over the years we worked closely together on many pesticide application issues, including implementation of safety training and record keeping.

I feel that Don, with his knowledge of pesticide products would be a real asset to the state Advisory Committee on Pesticides and I highly recommend him for a position on the Committee.

Sincerely,



Robin K. Robinson
Crop Control Superintendent
Gay & Robinson, Inc.
P.O. Box 156
Kaunakani, HI 96747