

**GM 580**

LINDA LINGLE  
Governor



SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DUANE K. OKAMOTO  
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

TESTIMONY OF SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT  
THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2008, 3:00 P.M.  
ROOM 414

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 580  
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE  
ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,  
SUSAN T. MATSUSHIMA, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2012

Chairperson Menor and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support for the consideration of Ms. Susan T. Matsushima to the Environmental Council.

I have known Ms. Matsushima for over 10 years. She cares deeply for Hawaii. She is inclusive by nature and listens to all sides of an issue, then thinks it through in forming her position. She is fair, balanced and open-minded. She served on the Board of Agriculture for two terms ending in 2005 and was a valued member of the Board.

Ms. Matsushima is the owner and CEO of Alluvion, a highly successful agribusiness that she has built over the last twelve years on 20 acres along Oahu's North Shore. Ms. Matsushima's company includes a nursery, full florist operation, gift basket business and plant rentals.

Ms. Matsushima earned a Bachelor of Education and a Professional Teaching Certification from the University of Hawai'i. She and her husband moved to Seattle where she received a Professional Certification from the University of Washington and taught in the Renton School District for five years. Ms. Matsushima returned to

Honolulu in 1976 and was an elementary school teacher for the Department of Education. Ms. Matsushima worked for Amfac Garden Hawai'i, Inc. from 1978-1990, rose to president and general manager, and is credited with expanding the nursery's stock from seven plant varieties to more than 500. In 1990, Ms. Matsushima and a business partner started the Aloha Pacific Farms nursery business in Ka'a'awa. In 1995 Ms. Matsushima bought the nursery from her partner, renamed it Alluvion, and moved the operation to Kawaiiloa.

Ms. Matsushima also serves on many boards and councils including consultant for the Biosystems Technology Program; member of the University of Hawaii, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, Advisory Board; past president Agricultural Leadership Foundation of Hawaii; and past chair of the Western Region, Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE), Administrative Council.

Ms. Matsushima is highly regarded in the agricultural community and is characterized as a collaborative, innovative, forward-looking, and astute agri-businessperson. Ms. Matsushima's experiences in agriculture and education have provided her with an understanding to take into account both economic and environmental concerns in finding the balance that will assure Hawaii's well-being into the future. Ms. Matsushima would be an invaluable asset to the Environmental Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support for Ms. Susan T. Matsushima's confirmation to the Environmental Council.



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
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**Senate Committee on Energy and Environment**

**Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Environmental Council,  
Gubernatorial Nominees**

**GM 579 – ALVIN L. CHAR**  
**For a Term to Expire 6-30-2012**

**GM 580 – SUSAN T. MATSUSHIMA**  
**For a Term to Expire 6-30-2012**

**GM 581 – JOHN A. RICHARDS**  
**For a Term to Expire 6-30-2012**

**GM 612 – GILL G. BERGER**  
**For a Term to Expire 6-30-2011**

**Testimony of Katherine Puana Kealoha**  
**Interim Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control**

**Thursday, April 10, 2008, 3:00 p.m.**  
**Room 414**

1           The Office of Environmental Quality Control strongly supports the appointments of Mr.  
2 Alvin Char, Ms. Susan Matsushima, Mr. John Richards, and Mr. Gill Berger to the  
3 Environmental Council.

4           Mr. Char has held various positions within the environmental industry. He has worked in  
5 the past as an Environmental Protection Specialist with the Army in Hawaii, and he is currently  
6 the Acting Deputy Director, Directorate of Public Works, U.S. Army Garrison. He has extensive  
7 knowledge in federal laws and regulations pertaining to the environment, endangered species,  
8 archaeological site management and protection.

1 Ms. Matsushima is currently the Program Manager for the Pacific Tropical Ornamental  
2 Fish Program and has held various positions in the agricultural industry.

3 Mr. John Richards has a degree in Animal Science from Washington State University and  
4 is currently the Operations Manager for Kahua Ranch on the Big Island. He has held various  
5 volunteer conservation and safety positions.

6 Mr. Gill Berger has served for over 30 years in the retail business industry where he held  
7 various regional and corporate managerial positions. During his tenure, he oversaw asbestos  
8 removal, green construction, and recycling. He is also involved in various local faith-based  
9 boards and initiatives.

10 All of their combined experience will help the Council's efforts to educate the public  
11 about business, environmental, and cultural issues in Hawaii.

12 Members of the Council represent education, business, and environmental disciplines and  
13 professions such as the natural and social sciences, the humanities, architecture, engineering,  
14 public health, planning, agriculture, real estate, visitor industry, construction, media, and  
15 community and environmental groups.

16 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**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 10, 2008

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON GM 580  
SUSAN T. MATSUSHIMA

Chair Menor 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 strongly supports the nomination of Ms. Susan T. Matsushima to the Environmental Council.

Ms. Matsushima has been actively involved in agriculture and environmental issues for nearly 30 years. As a former member of the Hawaii Board of Agriculture and as President of Alluvion, Inc., Ms. Matsushima has addressed agricultural and environmental issues statewide. Her experience and familiarity with local farming practices will help her provide valuable input to the efforts of the Environmental Council. Ms. Matsushima is committed to the belief that agriculture production and environmental stewardship are compatible and mutually dependent.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation is pleased to support the nomination of Susan T. Matsushima to the Environmental Council. We hope that you will give Ms. Matsushima's nomination to this position serious consideration.



## **Maui County Farm Bureau**

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

APRIL 10, 2008

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON GM 580  
SUSAN T. MATSUSHIMA

Chair Menor 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 on behalf of our member farmers, ranchers and agricultural organizations, **supports GM580**, appointing Ms. Susan Matsushima to the Environmental Council.

As a successful entrepreneurial farmer, Ms. Matsushima has embraced the qualities of environmental stewardship in her day to day activities at Alluvion Farms. We believe her practical knowledge will add value to the deliberations before the Council.

We strongly urge your support towards the appointment of Ms. Susan Matsushima. Thank you for this opportunity to provide our opinion on this matter.

Personal Testimony Presented before the  
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment  
April 10, 2008  
3:00 p.m.  
by  
Dr. Andrew G. Hashimoto

**GM580: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Environmental Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, SUSAN T. MATSUSHIMA, for a term to expire 6-30-2012.**

Chair Menor, Vice Chair Hooser, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Andrew Hashimoto. I serve as the Dean of UH Mānoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) and an ex-officio member of the Board of Agriculture. I am pleased to provide this personal testimony on GM 580. This testimony does not represent the position of the University of Hawai'i or of CTAHR.

I strongly support the confirmation of Susan Matsushima to the Environmental Council.

I have worked with Susan for many years. She is a member of our college's Board of Advisors and a valued member of Hawai'i's agricultural community. She is a committed advocate for land and water conservation and sustainability. Through her involvement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program, the Food Alliance, and the Friends of Halawa Xeriscape Garden, Susan supports environmentally sound growing practices. She has managed grants for a variety of federal agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency. Susan brings remarkable energy and dedication to all her endeavors. I am certain that the Environmental Council will benefit from her diverse experience in the fields of education, farming, business, and public service, and I wholeheartedly endorse her confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Alfredo Lee  
98-1960 D Kaahumanu Street  
Pearl City, HI 96782

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

April 10, 2008  
3:00 p.m.

**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 580**  
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE  
ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,

**SUSAN T. MATSUSHIMA,**  
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2012

Chairperson Menor and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in **strong support** of Ms. Susan Matsushima's consideration and confirmation to the Environmental Council.

Ms. Matsushima is well known in the agricultural industry and in her community. She has a very extensive background in education, agriculture, and business. I have known her since she was a vice-president at Amfac. Currently she is the owner of Alluvian Farm, a nursery operation on the north shore of Oahu. For many years she was a member of the Board of Agriculture.

I find Ms. Matsushima a very creative thinker and have come up with fresh ideas to resolve old problems. She will be a very valuable member of the Environmental Council. Thank you.

ALLUVION, INC.  
P.O. BOX 820  
HALEIWA, HI 96712  
808-637-8835

Re: Environmental Council Nomination

My name is Susan Matsushima, CEO/Owner of Alluvion, Inc. on the North Shore of Oahu. I am an educator by training and upon my return to the Islands from Seattle, was not able to find employment in that field.

In 1979, I joined Amfac Garden Hawaii as the first sales person with 7 people. In twelve years became general manager of the operation with 67 people. In 1990 Aloha Pacific Farms in Kaaawa was started with a partner from Taiwan. Moved to Kawaihoa outside of Haleiwa on the North Shore and started Alluvion, Inc. in 1996.

Being deeply involved in agriculture for the last 27 years, in various capacities, I have been concerned about our Island State and the issues that need to be protected to preserve our delicate environment. Being on the Board of this Council, agriculture would have a voice that needs to be heard.

In looking at the list of members of the Board, agriculture has never had any input. With many issues coming forth, things like invasive species, erosion, and taking prime agricultural lands for development need to be scrutinized.

Hawaii needs to be very conscious about the environment we live in. We need to be more self sustaining in production of our food needs for the people of our state and issues that involve any part of our environment.

It would be an honor to present a voice for agriculture on the Council.

Best regards,

Susan Matsushima