

TESTIMONY
GM 392

**Presentation Before the Senate Committee on Water, Land,
Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs**

Clayton Hee, Chair

**February 16, 2009
GM 392 - Board of Agriculture**

Chair Hee, members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs, thank you for this opportunity to allow me to introduce myself, for your consideration, of my confirmation, to the Board of Agriculture.

My name is Derrick Nishimura. I was born and raised in Hilo on the Big Island of Hawaii. I am a graduate of Hilo High School and also attended the University of Hawaii at Hilo, receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in General Agriculture. I have also attended and graduated from the Agricultural Leadership Foundation of Hawaii program, Class VII.

My career in Agriculture started in 1978 at Puna Papaya's packing plant on the Big Island. Thereafter, I started my career in sugar beginning with Pioneer Mill on Maui, followed by Oahu Sugar and ending on Kauai at McBryde Sugar in 1994. At each of the sugar plantations, I had the opportunity to work on their diversification efforts. At Pioneer Mill, it was cacao and coffee, at Oahu Sugar it was at their plant nursery on Managers Drive, and at McBryde Sugar, it was with their coffee operation. I then grew guavas for Kilauea Agronomics on former Kilauea Sugar lands. Today I am back on the Big Island working for Agro Resources an Agribusiness Management company.

Having lived on four of the major islands, my frame of reference has been broadening by each move. My exposure to each of the island's agriculture will help me understand others and enable me to keep an open mind in decision making.

With my 30 years of agricultural background, I believe I can make a positive contribution to the Board of Agriculture. I ask for you to support my nomination to the Board of Agriculture. Thank you.

Senator Clayton Hee
Chair, Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs

Governor's Message Number 392
Derrick Nishimura, Nomination to the Board of Agriculture

Why do you wish to be a member of the Board of Agriculture?

I have been involved in agriculture all my life and I would like to take part in making decisions that will affect agriculture on a statewide basis and know that I have contributed keeping agriculture a viable resource in Hawaii.

How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Board of Agriculture? A critical one, where changes to policies could bring ill effects to the well being of a particular sector of the agricultural industry, thus the responsibilities of knowing the pros and cons of issues at hand and weighing the benefits versus losses before decision making.

Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the Board of Agriculture, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise, or knowledge that would aid in your decision making ability as a member of the Board of Agriculture. I have a long history in agriculture, 30 years spread over four of our major islands. I served on the Kauai County Farm Bureau, Board of Directors and most recently served on the Waiakea Soil and Water Conservation District, Board of Directors. I have attended the Agricultural Leadership Foundation of Hawaii program which provided me with exposure to agriculture throughout the State of Hawaii. I believe all this experience has broaden my frame of reference, giving me the tools I need to help me carry out the duties of being a member of the Board of Agriculture.

What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service? To know that I have made a positive contribution to the State of Hawaii's agricultural sector and have it flourish into the foreseeable future.

Name three qualities that best describe you and that would make you stand out. How would these qualities benefit the Board of Agriculture? Honest, fateful, and dedicated to keeping agriculture in Hawaii. With these qualities, the Board can depend on me to be there for important decision making.

Name one previous experience that would make you stand out. How would this benefit the Board of Agriculture? I have worked in the Sugar Industry and have seen closures affect people's lives, it affected me. I bring to the Board, my life experience in seeing failed agricultural businesses and its consequences on lives, thus instilling in me the importance of keeping agriculture alive in Hawaii.

Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your service on the Board of Agriculture? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interests? No, I do not anticipate any conflicts of interest at this time. If however one should arise, I will inform the Chairperson and abstain from voting on that particular issue.

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
WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2009
11:00 A.M.
ROOM 229

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 392
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF
AGRICULTURE, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, DERRICK F. NISHIMURA,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2010

Chairperson Hee and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support for the consideration and confirmation of Derrick Nishimura as a member of the Hawaii Board of Agriculture (BOA).

Mr. Nishimura brings 30 years of experience in various Hawaii agriculture related businesses. He has lived and worked in the agriculture industry on four islands; Maui, Oahu, Kauai and the Big Island. He has worked in a broad range of agricultural industries, including papaya, guava, cattle, sugar, macadamia nuts and coffee. He has varied experience in farm operations including: field operations in guava and coffee production (from fertilizing, to irrigating, to pruning and harvesting); developed application rates for weed control; interviewed, scheduled and managed seasonal workers; prepared crop ripening progress reports; involved in large field trials of sweet corn, potato and alfalfa; and efficiently maximized crop yields.

Mr. Nishimura graduated from the University of Hawaii at Hilo with a degree in General Agriculture and also completed the Agricultural Leadership Foundation program in Class VII. He has dedicated his extensive career to building the agriculture industry through the companies he's worked for as well as volunteering his services to industry organizations. I have known Mr. Nishimura for many years through his continuous dedication to improving the industry.

As a former board member and past Vice President for the Kauai County Farm Bureau and a past board member and Secretary for the Hawaii Coffee Growers Association, Mr. Nishimura brings a wealth of experience and leadership skills to the BOA and has been a valuable asset.

Mr. Nishimura started serving on the BOA in an interim capacity since July 2008 and we respectfully ask for your support for his confirmation. Thank you.



STATE OF HAWAII
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
235 S. Beretania Street, Room 205
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: (808) 586-0186 Fax: (808) 586-0189

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

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

FEBRUARY 16, 2009
11:00 a.m.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 392
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,
DERRICK F. NISHIMURA,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2010.

Chairperson Hee and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on Governor's Message 392, which if approved would confirm Mr. Derrick F. Nishimura as a member of the Board of Agriculture (BOA). The ADC is in strong support of this nominee.

Since earning his Bachelor of Science degree in General Agriculture, Mr. Nishimura has worked progressively from field supervision to department head positions in the sugar industry and in diversified agriculture. He is also a graduate of the Ag Leadership Foundation and has a very good understanding of the challenges facing the agricultural industry today. We feel that Mr. Nishimura would be a very valuable asset to the BOA.



Agro Resources, Inc. *Agribusiness Management*

February 13, 2009

Senator Clayton Hee
Chairman
Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture & Hawaiian Affairs
Hawaii State Capital, Room 228
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Hee

RE: GM392 – Board of Agriculture Nomination, Derrick Nishimura.

I highly recommend the confirmation Derrick Nishimura as a member of the Board of Agriculture.

Derrick was born in Hawaii and has spent his entire business career in Hawaii's agriculture. He is a strong believer that agriculture is a vital part of Hawaii's economy and culture. Derrick has the educational background, work experience, and moral commitment that is necessary to insure the growth of Hawaii's agriculture in a manner that contributes to both economic viability and good stewardship.

Derrick is a well-rounded individual with balanced commitments to his family, the community, and his personal activities. He is a rational thinker with the well balanced perspective necessary for making good decisions on difficult issues.

I believe that Derrick will be a good addition to the Board of Agriculture.

Sincerely,

David Rietow
President.



February 12, 2009

Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs
Hawaii State Legislature
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

To whom it may concern:

Re: Letter supporting GM 392 for your consideration and confirmation of Derrick F. Nishimura as a member of the Board of Agriculture.

Derrick Nishimura is a life long resident of the State of Hawaii with a broad experience in many facets of agriculture in Hawaii. His work experience at Pioneer Mill, Kauai Coffee, Kilauea Agronomics, Agro Resources etc. gives him an extensive background in understanding the need to maintain a balance between our natural resources and the agricultural sustainability in Hawaii.

I have worked w/ Derrick in his management capacity at Agro Resources and in the Farm Bureau's Government Affairs Committee. He has shown exceptional leadership qualities in his various roles with his knowledge, creativity, compassion, and energy. You can feel and see his desire to help the agriculture community because it comes from the heart. These are qualities that the board needs to meet the challenges we now face.

I feel that Derrick will make an excellent Board Member to work towards the overall goals of sustaining both our agricultural and our precious natural resources. His effort comes from the heart, and that is so rare in this day and age. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Reginald M. Hasegawa".

Reginald M. Hasegawa
Manager
Crop Production Services Inc.

Hawaii Agriculture Research Center

Administration: P.O. Box 100, Kunia, HI 96759

Ph: 808-621-1350/Fax: 808-621-1359

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE GM 392

CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE HAWAII STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE of DERRICK F. NISHIMURA

February 16, 2009

Chairman Hee 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 and our research and support staff.

HARC strongly supports the Consideration and Confirmation of DERRICK F. NISHIMURA to the Hawaii State Board of Agriculture (GM 392).

I am please to support Derrick in a continuing role as a member of the state's Board of Agriculture.

I have known Derrick for many years in the sugarcane, coffee and then guava businesses. He is an excellent agriculturalist and certainly experienced in Hawaii's agricultural sector.

Derrick is a great asset to any organization and we are extremely pleased he is willing to continue supporting agriculture by volunteering for this board.

HARC strongly urges you to confirm DERRICK NISHIMURA'S appointment to the Board of Agriculture.

TESTIMONY
GM 392
(END)