

TESTIMONY
GM515

March 30, 2009

The Honorable Clayton Hee
Chairman, Committee on Water, Land Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs
Hawaii State Capital, Room 228
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Clark
Hashimoto

Re: Nomination to the Board of Agriculture

Dear Senator Hee:

Thank you for the letter on my nomination to the Board of Agriculture. I have listed the following information that you requested:

- 1) A resume with a list of references (see attached)
- 2) A written statement that addresses the following questions:
 - a. **Why to you wish to be a member of the Board of Agriculture?**

I was born and raised on a farm in Kula, Maui and I always had a passion for agriculture. My forefathers risked everything they had to make a new life of farming here in Hawaii. Sight unseen, they purchased land and made it to what it is today through hard work and dedication. Now, as a fourth generation farmer, I also have the passion to continue the work that they have started. Being on the Board of Agriculture will give me an opportunity to ensure that agriculture enterprises continue during these hard times.

- b. **How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Board of Agriculture?**

As a member of the BOA, I need to make sound and responsible decisions that will benefit the agriculture community in the State of Hawaii. Whether approving a loan or setting water rates, one must make responsible decisions as it will affect agriculture's ability to stay viable in these hard economic times. I'm seeing too many third and fourth generation farmers giving up on their family farms to work elsewhere, where they are guaranteed an income every month. We must keep agriculture viable through the BOA and assist agriculture get through this crisis that is upon us.

- c. **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 you decision-making ability as a member of the Board of Agriculture.

As I mentioned before, I have a lifelong of experience in agriculture. First, in being a farmer; second, experience in working for CTAHR for 28 years and; presently, as an Agriculture Specialist in the Office of Economic Development for the County of Maui. I've worked with farmers for over three decades and with my experience with CTAHR, I have met farmers from all walks of life on every island.

My experience in agriculture, both as a government worker and as a farmer, gives me valuable experience on both sides of the spectrum. I've worked with vegetable farmers, nurserymen, flower growers, landscapers, taro growers, farmers in the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands as well as work closely with the Farm Bureau for over 30 years. My expertise and knowledge in agriculture will certainly aid me in my decision making abilities.

d. What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?

Through the Hawaii Department of Agriculture, my number one accomplishment will be to keep agriculture in Hawaii viable. We need to keep pineapple and our last sugar plantation operational for a long time to come. The decisions made by the BOA should reflect the need to improve and increase the local production of food and fiber. We need to instill to the people of Hawaii to buy local, even with higher prices. With nearly ninety percent of our food being imported, we need our farmers, to survive in a crisis situation.

e. Name three qualities that best describe you and that would make you stand out? How would these qualities benefit the Board of Agriculture?

The three qualities that best describe me are as follows:

- i) Knowledge – My knowledge in the field of agriculture spans over several decades. I have knowledge in all aspects of agriculture including production, marketing and management of a farm entity.
- ii) Experience – I have been farming since my early childhood and know the hard work and dedication it takes to make a successful farm business. Also, my 28 years with CTAHR gives me the experience of working with farmers and know what their needs are and what it takes to make them “tick”. My current position as the Agriculture Specialist also gives me an insight in managing Ag

Parks as I manage the only County owned ag park in the state.
HDOA manages several ag parks throughout the state.

iii) Ability to work with others – In my previous experiences, I have worked with farmers, ranchers, the Federal Government, State Government, the County Government and other ag related agencies. I still work with the Farm Bureau and other farm organizations and worked closely with the Department of Hawaiian Homelands on Maui and Molokai. The ability to work with others is a key ingredient to getting things done.

f) **Name one previous experience that would make you stand out. How would this benefit the Board of Agriculture?**

My experience as a farmer and a government employee brings to the Board of Agriculture, a member that will be able to look at both sides of the equation when it comes to making a decision that will affect agriculture. You need to think like a farmer when making a decision that will affect their livelihood, whether it be approving a loan or increasing their water rates. As a government employee, with no farming experience, one may not be able to make a right decision that will make or break a farming business. The farmer of today has so many regulations that drives up the cost of production but as a farmer, they are in a position that makes them unable to set the price of their product to offset the increase in production costs.

g) **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 interest?**

I do not foresee any conflicts of interest while serving on the Board of Agriculture. However, if a conflict does arise, I will recues myself from making any decisions that will affect the outcome.

I have answered these questions to the best of my ability and hope that this satisfies what you were asking for. Should there be any questions, please feel free to contact me via email at _____ or my cell phone at _____

Sincerely,



Clark S. Hashimoto

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
FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2009
2:45 P.M.
ROOM 229**

**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 515
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF
AGRICULTURE, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, CLARK S. HASHIMOTO,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2013**

Chairperson Hee and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of the confirmation of Mr. Clark S. Hashimoto to the Hawaii Board of Agriculture (BOA).

Mr. Hashimoto has been involved with agriculture in Hawaii for most of his life. He brings a wealth of institutional knowledge and experience from both the public and private industry perspectives.

Mr. Hashimoto's professional experience includes:

- University of Hawaii, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, County Extension Agent for 23 years and County Administrator for 5 years;
- County of Maui, Office of Economic Development, Agriculture Specialist for Maui County since 2007. His responsibilities include oversight of the Kula Agricultural Park which is comprised of 31 lots located on 445 acres;
- Full-time persimmon farmer;

- Hawaiian Sugar Planters Association, Agriculturalist;
- Department of Social Services and Housing.

Mr. Hashimoto is a fourth generation farmer. Through grade school and high school, he worked on the Hashimoto Persimmon Farm (established in the early 1900's). In 2000, he took over the management of the family farm, increased the farm production, and expanded marketing of the farm products to Oahu and the Kapiolani Community College Farmers' Market. He also developed value added products, including persimmon jam, butter, scone mix, salad dressing and syrup. The Hashimoto Farm persimmon products have been featured in newspaper and magazine articles statewide.

Mr. Hashimoto dedicates valuable time to boards and community service organizations including, Board member of the Board of Water Supply; Board Member of the Maui Farm; member of Makawao Hongwanji; member and officer of the PTSA at Lihikai School, Maui Waena, Kalama Intermediate, Baldwin High School, King Kekaulike High School; and youth baseball coach for over 20 years.

Mr. Hashimoto has been an invaluable asset to the agriculture industry in Hawaii. His extensive experience and expertise will add to the BOA discussions and will help to promote and enhance the agriculture industry in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support for the consideration and confirmation of Clark S. Hashimoto as a member of the BOA.

CHARMAINE TAVARES
Mayor



DEIDRE M. TEGARDEN
Economic Development Coordinator

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

COUNTY OF MAUI
2200 MAIN STREET, SUITE 305, WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793, USA
Telephone: (808) 270-7710 • Facsimile: (808) 270-7995 • Email: economic.development@mauicounty.gov

March 30, 2009

Senator Clayton Hee
Chair
Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs
Room 228
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Measure GM515
Date and Time of Hearing: Friday, April 3, 2009 2:45pm

Dear Senator Hee:

I have had the privilege of knowing and working with Mr. Clark Hashimoto the past two years in his role as the Maui County Agriculture Specialist. Mr. Hashimoto's deep understanding of the needs of our community, commitment to agriculture and excellent interpersonal skills, have allowed him to develop productive working relationships with clients, staff and peers.

Mr. Hashimoto possesses solid decision making skills and has the unique gift to comprehend all sides of an issue. His background as an Extension Agent with the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, his position as the County of Maui's Agriculture Specialist, coupled with owning and running a successful farm operation make him the perfect candidate for this position.

I recommend him for appointment to the Board of Agriculture without reservation. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you need further information.

Me ke aloha,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deidre Tegarden".

Deidre M. Tegarden
Economic Development Coordinator
Office of Mayor Tavares



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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE and HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**CONFIRMATION OF CLARK S. HASHIMOTO
FOR
THE HAWAII BOARD OF AGRICULTURE
APRIL 2009**

Dear Chairman Hee and Members of the Committee:

STRONG SUPPORT: GM 515

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. Clark S. Hashimoto for the Board of Agriculture. Along with his strong leadership skills, his organizational development has been exceptionally outstanding.

I have worked with Mr. Hashimoto as a College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources Extension Agent and as the Administrator of Maui County. Mr. Hashimoto is very active as a former Board Member of the Maui County Farm Bureau and Board of Water Supply and has given copious support to the agriculture industry. He is currently an Agricultural Specialist for the County of Maui, Office of Economic Development. His performance to relate and work with various groups was outstanding.

Mr. Hashimoto's diversified experience in the agriculture industry for over 30 years has rounded his career from production to sales and to marketing technologies. Mr. Hashimoto's outstanding efforts and support in the agriculture industry is highly recognized. It is with confidence that Mr. Hashimoto will be a dedicated agriculture person on the Board of Agriculture.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide support for the confirmation of Mr. Clark S. Hashimoto as a member of the State Board of Agriculture.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
United States Department of Agriculture Cooperating

HAWAII STATE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Friday, April 3, 2009
2:45 p.m. Hearing
Conference Room 229, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu

Testimony in support of nomination of Clark Hashimoto to the Hawaii Board of Agriculture

Honorable Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Honorable Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair
Members of the committee:

HAROLD
KEYSER

I am pleased to submit this letter of support for the nomination of Clark Hashimoto of Kula, Maui, to the Board of Agriculture. It would be difficult to find a better qualified candidate for the BOA, in all respects, than Clark. His experience includes that of a fourth generation family farmer, and that of a 30 year career as a UH CTAHR Cooperative Extension Agent and Maui County Administrator. His close involvement with Maui Farm Bureau for many years provided him a deep understanding of the challenges of all areas of agriculture. His professional career in Cooperative Extension allowed him to develop educational programs to address these challenges. His activities at Cooperative Extension included development of an educational program for new homesteaders on DHHL agricultural lots on Maui – a good example of his approach of identifying needs and providing the appropriate educational resources. He was also a long time member of the Board of Water Supply of Maui County, and has served on the Board of Directors of the Kula Agricultural Park.

In the years that we overlapped at Cooperative Extension in Kahului, I was most impressed by Clark's tireless dedication as Chair of the Horticulture Section of the annual Maui County Fair, which focuses on youth participation through growing and display of produce and flowers. His commitment to education of youth about agriculture and food systems continues, as he took the initiative this year as the Maui County Agricultural Specialist to sponsor and coordinate an Agriculture Awareness Day for 5th graders from public schools; this field day for some 500 students was a great success, and the enthusiasm of the kids and teachers in seeing fascinating aspects of biology and insects in agricultural context speaks well to Clark's quiet wisdom.

Based on Clark's lifetime involvement in agriculture as a farmer, educator for Cooperative Extension, Agricultural Specialist for Maui County, and in his numerous advisory roles associated with agriculture, I have full confidence that he will serve the State well as a well qualified member of the Board of Agriculture and urge your committee to approve his nomination.

From: James Robello [robelloj@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2009 4:26 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: Re: GM515

Bill No. : GM 515
Committee: WTL
Date: 4/3/09
Time: 2:45 PM

Dear Chairperson Hee,

I support Clark Hashimoto's nomination to the Board of Agriculture. Clark's experience working on the family farm and CTAHR Cooperative Extension Agent will make him a strong board member.

James Robello



Alii Kula Lavender

1100 Waipohi Road, Kula, HI 96790

office 808.878.3004 | fax 808.878.2645

April 1, 2009

Honorable Members of Senate Committee of
Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing in support of the Governor's nomination of Clark Hashimoto to the Board of Agriculture. Referenced as GM 515.

Clark has been involved in agriculture for 28 years in which time he also served as the CTAHR representative for Maui County. He later was appointed by Maui Mayor Tavares as the Agriculture Specialist for the Office of Economic Development. As the President, of the Hawaii AgriTourism Association and Co-owner of the Lavender Farm, I've worked with Clark directly, on agricultural education projects across Maui County, for children, farmers and other agricultural researchers.

I've observed Clark to be dedicated and committed to the welfare and sustainability of agriculture in Hawaii overall.

Please confirm Clark Hashimoto to the Board of Agriculture.

Sincerely,

Lani Medina Weigert
Ceo/ Co-owner
lanim@aklmaui.com

William G. Jacintho
Maui Cattlemen's Association
P.O. Box 473
Kula, Maui, Hi. 96790

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2009

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Friday, April 3, 2009
TIME: 2:45 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 229
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

GM 515

Testimony

Status

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, CLARK S. HASHIMOTO, for a term to expire 6-30-2013.

Dear Chair Person Hee,

Please support Clark S. Hashimoto for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee for a term to expire 6-30-2013. Clark is a very knowledgeable person with many years of experience in all fields of Agriculture. He has a lot to offer, and is committed to the success of Agriculture.

Sincerely,
William G. Jacintho
Maui Cattlemen's Association President

**Glenn I. Teves
P.O. Box 261
Kualapu'u, Molokai, HI 96757**

April 2, 2009

Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Issues

Testimony in SUPPORT of Mr. Clark Hashimoto
as a member of
State Board of Agriculture

Aloha Chair Hee and committee members. I'm writing in support of Mr. Clark Hashimoto as a member of the State Board of Agriculture. I have known Clark for over 25 years and consider him a good friend. He's an honest and upstanding member of the Maui farming community, and is a third generation Kula farmer. As one who came from the bottom and worked his way up, I can remember him telling me of going to school without shoes because his family couldn't afford them. He's also a retired UH County Extension Agent, and I have worked with Clark as a fellow County Extension Agent. He also served as the Maui County Administrator overseeing all extension programs in Maui County. I believe that Clark will serve the Maui County farming community well as he will listen to farmers and deliberate fairly. He has decades of hands-on experience and knowledge in agriculture, and received a degree from California Polytechnic Institute, one of the premier tropical agriculture colleges in the nation. As one who was born and raised in Upcountry Maui, Clark has the respect of Maui farmers. I believe Clark will serve this position well and will also be able to assist Molokai and Lanai with their farming issues. Mahalo.



April 2, 2009

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**RE: GM 515 - NOMINATION OF CLARK S. HASHIMOTO
TO THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

Dear Chair Hee and Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of GM 515, which will consider the nomination and confirmation of Clark S. Hashimoto to the Board of Agriculture.

I have known Clark for over 20 years and his ardent support and promotion of all forms of agriculture in Hawaii is commendable. His experiences as a small farmer, University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture Extension Agent, Maui County Office of Economic Development Agricultural Specialist and participation on various community advisory boards make him an experienced and competent candidate.

Clark's strong commitment to public service and understanding of the issues and challenges facing Hawaii's agricultural community will be an asset to the Board of Agriculture. I have no doubt that he is dedicated to the preservation and productive use of Hawaii's agricultural resources and will use this opportunity to further support agriculture for the benefit of Hawaii.

I strongly support the nomination and confirmation of Clark S. Hashimoto to the Board of Agriculture for the full term ending 6/30/2013.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick W. Volner Jr.
Senior Vice-President, Agricultural Operations
Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Company

TESTIMONY
GM515
(END)