

**TESTIMONY**  
**GM 374**

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

I believe that Hawaiian agriculture has the potential, once again, to become one of our leading industries. It's going to take a lot of hard work and proper planning and execution for this to happen. I think that I have a lot to contribute to this process and would welcome the opportunity to participate.

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

I take this role very seriously. Members of the board are responsible for making important decisions regarding a wide range of issues facing our agriculture community. This means that we regulate as well as advocate on behalf of Hawai'i's farmers. In a sense, the board becomes the voice of the public. The most important role of a board member is to help oversee the function of the Department of Agriculture.

**3. 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.**

With my 40 years of farming experience, I bring my "school of hard knocks" logic to the board. I have experience with livestock, orchard, and vegetable farming and know first-hand the challenges that the farming community face.

Having participated in the Agriculture Leadership Foundation of Hawai'i (ALFH), Agriculture Leadership Program, as a member and graduate of Class VIII, I feel I enhanced my skills in facilitation and the ability to work collaboratively within our community. This training program has provided me a state-wide perspective of agriculture. A large part of the program involved traveling to neighbor-island, networking with others in the agricultural community, and learning about the common challenges we all share.

As an Agricultural Research Technician with the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) I understand the science behind the various challenges that farmers encounter. I also understand how important research is in developing crops that can help us compete in the global marketplace.

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

I would like to see the State Agricultural Lands and irrigation systems transferred to HDOA. These lands and facilities should be managed by entities that have the expertise and experience in managing these lands.

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

Experience: 40+ years of farming in Hawai'i, 20 years with the (CTAHR).

Objectivity: Ability to be impartial; learning and listening to all sides of an issue before drawing conclusions.

Actively Involved: Have 20+ years experience being involved with many agriculturally-related community and government committees and organizations.

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

In 2000, the Līhu'e Plantation Company announced that they were ceasing agricultural operations. This meant that the East Kaua'i Water Company, which delivered water to the plantation as well as to farmers and ranchers on the east side of Kaua'i, would cease to exist. The water system, which was built by the plantation but is owned by the State of Hawai'i, would have fallen into disrepair.

Farmers and ranchers who used the system formed the East Kaua'i User's Cooperative. In 2002, after two years of hard work, the Co-op was issued a permit from DLNR to operate the system. During this same year, I was elected President of the Co-op and still serve in that capacity.

This is a good example of public/private partnership that may serve as a model for state-owned irrigation systems. I played a leadership role in the formation of this Co-op and I continue to serve this important partnership not only as a leader but from within the farming community.

**7. 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?**

No, I do not foresee any conflicts of interest as a board member. If any unforeseen conflicts arise I would declare any bias and abstain from the final vote. My service to the agricultural community is voluntary with no personal or monetary gain.

**Senate Committee on Water, Land,  
Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs  
Referring to Governor's Message number 374**

**March 25, 2010**

**Jerry L. Ornellas**

**Board of Agriculture**

**Aloha Chair Hee and members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs. Mahalo for this opportunity to present my background information to you and your committee, as you consider my confirmation as the Kauai member of the Board of Agriculture.**

**I was born and raised on Kauai. I attended and graduated from Kapaa High School.**

**During the course of my 40 years in agriculture I've had experience in livestock production, vegetable crops and orchard crops. I also have experience in agricultural land and water management.**

**For the last 20 years, while continuing to farm part-time, I have worked for the University of Hawaii ~ College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources as an Agricultural Research Technician.**

**Some of the agricultural community organizations I serve on are:**

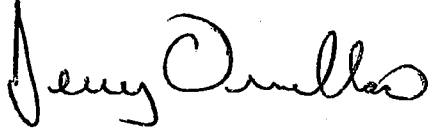
- President – East Kauai Water User's Cooperative**
- Vice President – Kauai County Farm Bureau**
- Chair – Kauai Agricultural Advisory Committee (serving Mayor Carvalho and former Mayor Baptiste)**
- Co-Chair – Kauai Economic Development Board's Food and Agriculture Committee**

- **Member/Stakeholder & Technical Advisory Committee – County of Kauai Important Agricultural Lands (IAL) Study**
- **Associate Director – East Kauai Soil and Water Conservation District**

**A position on the Board of Agriculture will give me an opportunity to work on a wide range of important issues. Preserving our agricultural lands and water systems, implementing the Bio Security Program, and dealing with reduced funding of the Department of Agriculture are just a few of the challenges I understand I will have to deal with.**

**I welcome the opportunity to serve the people of Hawaii. My background, experience and community service have given me the tools to succeed. I ask you to support my nomination to the Board of Agriculture.**

**Aloha.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry Amelio". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

**Bernard P. Carvalho Jr.**  
Mayor



**Gary K. Heu**  
Administrative Assistant

**John Isobe**  
Executive Assistant

**COUNTY OF KAUA'I**

**TESTIMONY OF THE  
COUNTY OF KAUA'I  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

**TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE  
ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2010**

**March 31, 2010  
3:15 p.m.**

**TESTIMONY ON GM 374, RELATING TO GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE JERRY L. ORNELLAS TO THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**TO THE HONORABLE CHAIR HEE AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:**

My name is Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr., Mayor of the County of Kaua'i, providing testimony in support of Gubernatorial Nominee Jerry L. Ornellas to the Board of Agriculture.

Mr. Ornellas is well-respected in the community as a professional in the agricultural research area for the University of Hawai'i CTAHR. He is also an active leader and director on various agricultural related organizations such as the East Kaua'i Water Users' Cooperative, the Kaua'i Economic Development Board, and the Kaua'i County Farm Bureau .

He will serve well on this board and be able to contribute a wealth of knowledge as he has been raised on a dairy farm on Kaua'i, has been farming his entire life and is now raising orchard crops.

His knowledge and success in agriculture and his commitment to serving on this board for the term ending on June 30, 2014, exemplifies his outstanding qualities as a leader to the citizens of our State.

Mahalo for allowing me the opportunity to submit my testimony in support of Mr. Ornellas.

**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  
WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
Wednesday, March 31, 2010  
3:15 p.m.  
Room 229**

**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 374  
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, JERRY L. ORNELLAS,  
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2014**

Chairperson Hee and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) is in strong support for the consideration and confirmation of Mr. Jerry Ornellas for a four-year term to the Board of Agriculture. Mr. Ornellas has been a commercial farmer since 1966 and is currently working as an Agricultural Research Technician with the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources.

Mr. Ornellas is actively involved in several agricultural and community organizations. At the present time he is the President and Founding Member of the East Kauai Water Users Cooperative and Vice President of the Kauai County Farm Bureau. He has been an Associate Director of the East Kauai Soil and Water Conservation District, President and Member of the Hawaii Banana Industry Association, Member and Chair of the Kauai Agriculture Advisory Committee, member of the Governor's Neighbor Island Council of Advisors, and member of the Kauai Economic Development Board.

Mr. Ornellas is a graduate of Kapaa High School and the Agricultural Leadership Foundation of Hawaii.

Mr. Ornellas is well known and respected for his extensive knowledge and ability to work well with a variety of people. He is dedicated to both public service and the overall advancement of agriculture. We feel confident that he will be a great asset to the Board of Agriculture.



LINDA LINGLE  
Governor



ALFREDO A. LEE  
Executive Director

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**

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

Wednesday, March 31, 2010  
3:15 p.m.  
Room 229

**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 374  
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD  
OF AGRICULTURE, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, JERRY L. ORNELLAS,  
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2014**

Chairperson Hee and Members of the Committee:

The Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) is in strong support of the nomination of Jerry Ornellas to the State of Hawaii Board of Agriculture. As President of the East Kauai Water Users' Cooperative, Mr. Ornellas over the past several years has coordinated with the ADC for water system funding and land management issues. He is a fourth generation farmer well known and respected in the local community and has done an excellent job managing the East Kauai irrigation system. We know he will be an invaluable asset to the Board.

Thank you.

# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MĀNOA

College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources  
Department of Family and Consumer Sciences

Testimony of Dr. Donna R. Ching, Extension Specialist, CTAHR, UH-Manoa

Governor's Message 374

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to  
THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,  
Jerry L. Ornellas

Presented before

Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture & Hawaiian Affairs  
March 31, 2010

Chairperson Hee and Members of the Committee:

I am pleased to contribute my expertise to the decision-making process on the Governor's Message 374, the consideration and confirmation of Mr. Jerry L. Ornellas to the Board of Agriculture. This statement does not represent a university position and my opinion does not conflict or interfere with my university responsibilities.

Jerry was a participant in Class VIII of the Agricultural Leadership Program (ALP). The Agricultural Leadership Foundation of Hawaii and the College of Tropical Agricultural and Human Resources sponsor the ALP jointly. Participants from across the State are selected because they are leaders in the agriculture sector, their industry or rural community. As the coordinator of this statewide program since 1987, I have had the opportunity to work with many effective leaders.

Jerry Ornellas is, without question, one of the best Ag Leaders I have ever had in the ALP. He has taken the facilitation and collaborative leadership training provided by the ALP and used it to successfully lead many important agricultural endeavors on Kauai. I assisted Jerry and his team as they established the East Kauai Water User's Cooperative several years ago. This group of committed agriculturalists was the first to design a user's cooperative in this State. I have no doubt that Jerry's leadership and persistence throughout this process was an important component of the success the group experienced. Jerry facilitated this diverse group of stakeholders as they collaborated to address complex issues surrounding the provision of water to the different users. His skills are equally necessary on the Board of Agriculture.

Jerry has a long history in agriculture on Kauai. He has farmed vegetable and orchard crops and also has experience in livestock. He also is a committed colleague at CTAHR's Research Center on Kauai that services many of Kauai's farmers. This broad perspective will also be a tremendous asset if he is confirmed to serve on the Board.

Jerry has a sincere concern for agriculture and has served on many committees and participated in many activities that have, as their common focus, a commitment to strengthen the sector. He is an active member and leader of the Farm Bureau. As a result, he knows a

diversity of people in the sector and can represent a broad perspective. Additionally, he is someone who will do the homework necessary to be an informed member of the Board of Agriculture. As a collaborative leader, he will work hard to assist the Board in strengthening the sector.

Thank you for this opportunity to support for Mr. Ornellas' confirmation.

**COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE**

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

March 29, 2010

Honorable Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Water, Land, Agricultural and Hawaiian Affairs

Subject: GM 374; regarding nomination of Jerry Ornellas.

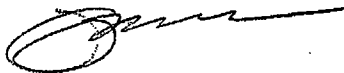
It is an honor and pleasure for me to write this letter in support for Mr. Jerry Ornellas, who has been nominated to the Hawaii Board of Agriculture, as the Kauai Representative, for the term of 07/01/10 to 06/30/14.

Mr. Ornellas is a tremendous agricultural asset to Kauai, and we would be fortunate and well served to have him as our representative. He has great breadth and depth of knowledge and experience in agriculture, and is an independent and discerning thinker who speaks with integrity and dignity.

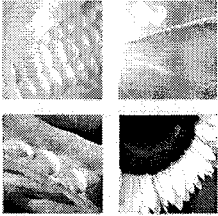
I have served on many boards and committees with Mr. Ornellas over the years, and always enjoy and appreciate his opinions on the issue. He is well respected as a thoughtful thinker and gentleman in our Kauai community.

Thank you for this privilege and opportunity to support his nomination.

Sincerely,



Roy Yamakawa  
County Administrator, Kauai



# Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

*Growing the Future of Worldwide Agriculture in Hawaii*

**HCIA 2008-2009  
Board of Directors**

**President**

Adolph Helm

**Vice President**

Fred Perlak

**Treasurer**

John Anderson

**Secretary**

Alika Napier

**Directors At Large**

Mike Austin

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Laurie Goodwin

Kirby Kester

Paul Koehler

Leslie Poland

Martha Smith

Mark Stouletmyer

Jill Suga

**Past President**

Sarah Styan

**Executive Director**

Alicia Maluafiti

Testimony By: Alicia Maluafiti

GM 374, Confirmation of Jerry Ornellas to the Board of Agriculture  
The Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs

Wednesday, March 31, 2010

Room 229, 3:15 pm

## **Position: Strong Support**

Aloha Chair Hee, Vice Tokuda and members of the Committee:

My name is Alicia Maluafiti, Executive Director of the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association. HCIA is a nonprofit trade association representing the agricultural seed industry in Hawaii. Now the state's largest agricultural commodity, the seed industry contributes to the economic health and diversity of the islands by providing high quality jobs in rural communities, keeping important agricultural lands in agricultural use, and serving as responsible stewards of Hawaii's natural resources.

HCIA is in strong support of the appointment of Jerry Ornellas to the Board of Agriculture.

Raised on a dairy farm on Kauai, Mr. Ornellas has been farming full and part-time since the age of 16 years old. His involvement in the agricultural industry is extensive and includes serving as a board member and former President of the Hawaii Banana Industry Association; a Board member of the Hawaii Awa Council; and president of the East Kauai Water Users' Cooperative. He is a graduate of the Agricultural Leadership Foundation of Hawaii, class of 2001 and is respected by farmers, researchers and community and business leaders across the state. Through his continued work in orchard crops as well as his experience as an agricultural research technician with the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, HCIA believes that Mr. Ornellas will be an important and valuable addition to the Board of Agriculture and a proud representative of the agricultural industry in Hawaii.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment.

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**From:** lhanamaulu@aol.com  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 27, 2010 4:04 PM  
**To:** WTLTestimony  
**Cc:** jerryo@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Referring to Governor's Message Number 374

March 27, 2010

Senator Clayton Hee, Chairperson  
Members of Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs

Referring to Governor's Message Number 374

Dear Senator Hee and Members of the Committee:

East Kauai Soil and Water Conservation District (EKSWCD) highly recommends the appointment of Mr. Jerry Ornellas to the State Board of Agriculture. Mr. Ornellas currently serves on the EKSWCD as an Associate Director. He has extensive knowledge and many years of experiences in water resource management, natural resource conservation, livestock production, vegetable and orchard crops. EKSWCD has a high regard for Mr. Ornellas' many years of experiences and knowledge in agriculture activities and respects his expertise in our effort to promote natural resources conservation on Kauai.

We look forward to Mr. Jerry Ornellas' appointment to the State Board of Agriculture.

With warmest aloha,

Ted Inouye, Chairperson  
East Kauai Soil and Water Conservation District

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**From:** liz ronaldson [growinggreens@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 29, 2010 12:38 PM  
**To:** WTLTestimony  
**Cc:** Melissa McFerrin  
**Subject:** Board of Ag-Jerry Ornellas

**Attn:** Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs

**Re:** Referring to GM374 - Appointment of Jerry Ornellas to the Board of Agriculture  
Testimony of Kauai County Farm Bureau in SUPPORT  
Liz Ronaldson, Past President

**Hearing:** March 31st at 3:15 p.m. in Conference Room 229

Jerry has been in agriculture for over forty years and has covered many different areas of agriculture. We have worked together on many projects in agriculture.

We are both graduates of the Agricultural Leadership program organized by Donna Ching at the University of Hawaii. His background with ALF includes a week spent in Washington D.C. spending time in the legislature and meeting with our senators. Touring Beltsville, Maryland and National Farm Bureau offices was a wonderful lesson in seeing how big government operates.

Jerry served as my Vice-President on the Kauai County Farm Bureau Board and was always there with great ideas and his follow through was always above average. We have worked together on the Mayor's Agricultural Advisory Committee under Mayor Bryan Baptiste and Mayor Bernard Carvalho.

Jerry's concern over water has brought him to be the President of the East Kauai Water Co-op. He works long hours on keeping our infrastructure in working order. He is now working on the IAL for the island of Kauai.

Without water we will NOT have any agriculture!

In SUPPORT of Jerry Ornellas,

Liz Ronaldson, Secretary  
Kauai County Farm Bureau

March 29, 2010

THE SENATE

THE TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE, REGULAR SESSION OF 2010

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

Concerning: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, **Jerry L. Ornellas**, for a term to expire 6-30-2014.

Aloha e Chair Clayton Hee and members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs,

Thank you for the opportunity to support the Gubernatorial Nominee Mr. Jerry L. Ornellas. I believe Jerry to be very qualified for the appointment and I support him without reservation. I have known Jerry for over 30 years and throughout this time I have seen him grow in experience, knowledge and a passion for supporting our rural agricultural community. Jerry is engaged in keeping agriculture alive, he is engaged in keeping our agricultural water systems in fact to serve us in the future, he is engaged in reaching out to farmers and supporters of agriculture, he is engaged in supporting the protection of our irreplaceable watersheds. Jerry is thinking and acting for our future, our children's future and their children to come!

I have seen this to be true, I have worked with Jerry and seen his actions first hand. I worked with him as a director of the East Kaua'i Water Users Cooperative, I have had contact with him via the County Farm Bureau, he has been a resource to me, and he has reached out to me consistently asking my views and opinion over time on many of the issues he will face when confirmed to act as a member of the Board of Agriculture. He has been there with public testimony to support the mauka watershed conservation efforts of the Kaua'i Watershed Alliance. He has a mauka to makai picture of what the important issues are. He is a farmer.

For your reference: I started on Kauai farming in 1977 when I first met Jerry. I have degree in Tropical Ag. from U of H; I started two agricultural/aquacultural operations on Kaua'i, Prawns of Hawaii and Kaua'i Papaya (over 100 acres of diversified agriculture complete with hydro-electric power); director of Best Fruits; an agricultural consultant; director of the East Kaua'i Water Users' Cooperative, currently Chair of the Kauai Invasive Species Committee and I work in conservation - watershed protection and native biodiversity preservation on Kaua'i

Please consider my testimony and nominate Jerry. He is an asset to Hawaii.

Thank you all for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Allan Rietow





**KAUAI**  
**Chamber**  
**of**  
**Commerce**

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms Office---FAX: 1-800-586-6659  
Hawaii State Senate  
Committee Hearing on March 31, 2010 - 3:15 p.m., Conf. Room 229

March 29, 2010

Honorable Senators Clayton Hee, Chair, Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair and Members -  
Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs  
Hawaii State Senate  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha:

RE: GM 374: Gubernatorial Nominee Mr. Jerry L. Ornellas

On behalf of the Kauai Chamber of Commerce 410 members, 600+ representatives and 6,000+ employees, and of which our organization comprises of 87% small businesses, I am writing to express the Chamber's unequivocal support of Mr. Jerry Ornellas for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture.

I have known Mr. Ornellas for 4 years since my return to the island of Kauai. I have had the opportunity to work closely with him in various capacities. Jerry has always demonstrated a high degree of excellence, commitment, fairness and integrity throughout his support and advocacy of agriculture on the island of Kauai, and statewide. These qualities were demonstrated through various community and business-related activities that I have met with him individually on, either as a member of the Kauai County Farm Bureau, University of Hawaii Agriculture Extension Service, advocate for small businesses, especially, farmers who do not have the time, knowledge and or experience to speak for themselves, and who have entrusted Jerry with their votes and support.

Whether it is for today's farmers, yesterday's or even tomorrow's future farmers, Jerry's primary focus is insuring that our lands, water and agricultural landscape, and quality of life are here for generations to come.

Kauai needs Mr. Ornellas on this important Board of Agriculture, for Kauai and our State of Hawaii. Should you need any further assistance; please do not hesitate to contact me anytime at 245-7363.

Aloha.

Randall Francisco  
President/CEO  
Kauai Chamber of Commerce

March 29, 2010

To: Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian  
Affairs (WTL)  
Referring to Governor's Message No. 374

Attn: Senator Clayton Hee

From: John R. Gordines

Subject: Jerry Ornellas' Nomination to Ag Board

Dear Sirs:

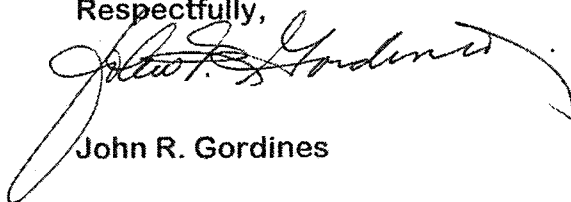
This Letter of Recommendation is for Mr. Jerry Ornellas to be nominated to the Hawaii Board of Agriculture, as the Kauai Representative.

I am presently the Farm Manager of the UH Kauai Ag Research Center, the president of the Hawaii Tropical Flowers and Foliage Association- Kauai Chapter, and sit on the Kauai Mayor's Advisory of which Mr. Ornellas is the chair.

I have known Jerry for the past 30 years. We have worked together at the UH Research station for the past 20 years and partnered with Kauai Agriculture issues and events. Not only is he well experienced in all facets of tropical agriculture but has a fervent passion in his role as a research technician. Jerry maintains a Category #10 Certified Applicators License and is well informed with all aspects of integrated pest management. Mr. Ornellas is a valuable resource and asset to the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources for his involvement in committees and boards here on Kauai and at the statewide level. He is a graduate of the Hawaii Ag Leadership program sponsored by the University of Hawaii. His resume speaks for itself.

Mr. Ornellas will be a positive asset for the promotion and future of Hawaii Agriculture. I highly without a doubt, encourage you select him for the position on the Hawaii Board of Agriculture.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John R. Gordines", written over a printed name. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

John R. Gordines



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PO Box 1998 Lihue Hawaii 808-821-1490 (FAX) 808-821-1492 www.kauaiisc.org

DATE: March 29, 2010

RE: Letter of recommendation for Jerry L. Ornellas, Board of Agriculture  
**Governor's Message 374**

FROM: Keren Gundersen, KISC Project Manager

Senator Clayton Hee,

I am writing this letter in support of Jerry Ornellas being appointed to a position on the Board of Agriculture. He is an excellent candidate and would serve as an unbiased, well-informed, and involved member.

I have known Mr. Ornellas for about 9 years; having often been at the same conference or giving a presentation at the same event. His perspective and insight regarding agriculture in Hawai'i makes him a perfect voice of the community. One of the things that I admire most about Jerry is his ability to look at agriculture in Hawai'i not only from a historic perspective, but also with an eye to the future.

Jerry has also been a great resource for me, as KISC's Project Manager. He has been able to provide me with information and support regarding how invasive species impact the farming community and how KISC can better serve that community. He is an experienced farmer, community leader, and research technician.

Please do not pass up this opportunity to install someone on your board who will serve not only the people of Kaua'i, but the entire state of Hawai'i. Mr. Ornellas is someone who will look objectively at all situations and make informed and educated decisions. He is not afraid to offer opinions and a point of view that will help to expand the outlook of all parties involved. Jerry Ornellas would be a great asset to this board.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Keren Gundersen  
KISC Project Manager

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**From:** Elizabeth Ito [lizuiito@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 29, 2010 6:30 PM  
**To:** WTLTestimony  
**Subject:** GM 374

Aloha,

I would like to add my recommendation of Jerry Ornellas as the Kaua'i representative to the Hawai'i Board of Agriculture. He has been integral part of many aspects of Kaua'i as well as State agriculture. He has supported our Kaua'i chapter of Hawai'i Tropical Fruit Growers from it's recent reactivation and before.

Mahalo for your consideration.

O wau me ka ha'aha'a,  
Elizabeth Ito  
HTFG Kaua'i President

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**From:** Charles Spitz [SPITZC001@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 29, 2010 7:52 PM  
**To:** WTLTestimony  
**Subject:** Governor's Message 374 Jerry L. Ornellas, Board of Agriculture

Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs Committee GM 374 Hearing Wednesday, March 31<sup>st</sup>  
3:15PM Conference Room 229

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chairman

\*Letter of Support for Jerry Ornellas, Nominee to the Hawaii Board of Agriculture, Governor's  
Message 374\*

Dear Senator Hee:

I strongly support the appointment of Jerry Ornellas to the Board of Agriculture. I have worked with him for nearly twenty years and have found him well versed on agriculture, a responsible operator of his family farm, a very hard worker, a quick and constant learner, and vitally interested in all matters that support large and small scale agriculture in Hawaii. He has a great deal of experience in various farm organizations such as the Kauai County Farm Bureau, East Kauai Water User's Cooperative and Kauai Agriculture Advisory Committee of the Mayor. I think that he would be a very productive and valuable member of the Board of Agriculture and urge his appointment.

Mahalo,

Charles W. Spitz  
PO Box 3897  
Lihue, HI 96766

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**From:** Joseph Dunsmoor [josephd2@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 30, 2010 7:55 AM  
**To:** WTLTestimony  
**Subject:** I say Yes to Jerry Ornellas,,,



Mahalo for supporting Jerry Ornellas

**Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs**

**DATE: March 31<sup>st</sup>**

**TIME: 3:15 p.m**

**PLACE: Conference Room 229**

**RE: Referring to GM 374 – Appointment to Board of Agriculture**

Dear Chair Hee, Vice Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee,

**I strongly support the appointment of Jerry Ornellas to the Board of Agriculture.** My name is Laurie Goodwin and I live in Kekaha on the island of Kauai.

Jerry has been a tireless advocate for Kauai's agriculture for over 40 years. He has a successful career working as an Agricultural Research Technician for University of Hawaii's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources in addition to running a private farm. He truly understands the hardships and trials Kauai's small farmers face. He is able to successfully represent all of the farmers on Kauai, regardless of their crop or farming practices. He is well respected within the farming community and is frequently asked to represent agricultural interests at a diverse range of meeting forums and committees.

I have been privileged to work with Jerry many times, most recently as the co-chair for the Kauai Economic Development Board's Food and Agriculture Committee. Jerry's strength is in bringing ideas to life with an eye to sustainable solutions. His diverse experience with agricultural operations on Kauai makes him the ideal candidate to represent all of the agricultural enterprises existing on Kauai, and those that will hopefully exist in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo,

*Laurie Goodwin*

Laurie Goodwin  
8515 Hale Lio St. | Kekaha, HI 96752-0994  
[u142520@gmail.com](mailto:u142520@gmail.com)



## **KAUAI NURSERY & LANDSCAPING, INC**

3-1550 Kaumualii Highway, Lihue Hi 96766

Phone: (808) 245-7747 / Fax: (808) 245-9289

E-mail: [knl@kauainursery.com](mailto:knl@kauainursery.com) License No. ABC-10825

March 30, 2010

ATTN: Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs  
Senator Clayton Hee (Chair), Jill Tokuda (Vice Chair) and Members of the  
Committee

RE: Referring to GM 374 – Appointment to Board of Agriculture  
Testimony of Kauai County Farm Bureau in SUPPORT

HEARING DATE: March 31<sup>st</sup> at 3:15 p.m, Conference Room 229

**Kauai Nursery & Landscaping provides testimony in support of appointment of Jerry L. Ornellas to the Board of Agriculture.**

Jerry is currently Vice President of the Kauai County Farm Bureau. Over his past 40 years in agriculture on Kauai, Jerry Ornellas has made a series of outstanding contributions to fellow farmers and to the agricultural sector.

His diverse professional experience in agriculture – working both as a private small farmer, and as an Agriculture Research Technician for UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, has given him a broad based experience in livestock production, vegetable crops and orchard crops.

As Vice President of the Kauai County Farm Bureau and member of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation Government Affairs Committee, as well as his roles as Chair of the Mayor's Agricultural Advisory Committee Jerry has worked on a wide variety of policy issues concerning the needs, challenges and opportunities faced by farmers on Kauai and from across the State.

He has specifically worked on water, land and infrastructure issues as President of the East Kauai Water User's Cooperative, and a member of the Stakeholder & Technical Advisory Committee for the County of Kauai Important Agricultural Lands (IAL) Study, and Associate Director of the East Kauai Soil and Water Conservation District.

Jerry brings to the table a unique combination of experience, critical thinking skills, and specific experience with land and infrastructure policy which has given him the tools for this role, along with a personal dedication to preserve agricultural lands and water systems and improve the situation of farmers statewide. We encourage you to support his appointment without delay.

Sincerely,

Lelan Nishek  
President – Kauai Nursery & Landscaping



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 30, 2010 9:12 AM  
**To:** WTLTestimony  
**Cc:** hvтаро@hawaiiantel.net  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM374 on 3/31/2010 3:15:00 PM

Testimony for WTL 3/31/2010 3:15:00 PM GM374

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Rodney Haraguchi  
Organization: Kauai Taro Growers Association  
Address: P. O. Box 427 Hanalei, Hi 96714-0427  
Phone: 808-826-6202  
E-mail: [hvtaro@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:hvtaro@hawaiiantel.net)  
Submitted on: 3/30/2010

**Comments:**

On behalf of the Kauai Taro Growers Association, we would like to submit this as testimony in support of the appointment of Jerry Ornellas to the Board of Agriculture.

Jerry has truly committed his life to support agriculture and farmers by the many officer positions he has held in many agriculture organizations and committes that he currently serves on. Being a farmer as well, Jerry understands and has the knowledge of what farmers and agriculture is needed in Hawaii.

Jerry will truly be an asset to the Board of Agriculture and the board needs someone with his dedication and expertise.

## **Kauai County Farm Bureau**

*Affiliated with Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation*

P.O. Box 3895 • Lihue HI 96766

808-337-9944 (phone/fax) 808-652-3217 (cell)

kcfb@hawaiiantel.net

***The Voice of Kauai's Agriculture***



March 29, 2010

**ATTN:** Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs  
Senator Clayton Hee (Chair), Jill Tokuda (Vice Chair) and Members of the  
Committee

**RE:** Referring to GM 374 – Appointment to Board of Agriculture  
Testimony of Kauai County Farm Bureau in SUPPORT  
Roy Oyama, President

**HEARING DATE:** March 31<sup>st</sup> at 3:15 p.m, Conference Room 229

Kauai County Farm Bureau on behalf of our member farm and ranch families, and affiliated with Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, provides testimony **in support of appointment of Jerry L. Ornellas to the Board of Agriculture.**

Jerry is currently Vice President of the Kauai County Farm Bureau. Over his past 40 years in agriculture on Kauai, Jerry Ornellas has made a series of outstanding contributions to fellow farmers and to the agricultural sector.

His diverse professional experience in agriculture – working both as a private small farmer, and as an Agriculture Research Technician for UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, has given him a broad based experience in livestock production, vegetable crops and orchard crops.

As Vice President of the Kauai County Farm Bureau and member of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation Government Affairs Committee, as well as his roles as Chair of the Mayor's Agricultural Advisory Committee Jerry has worked on a wide variety of policy issues concerning the needs, challenges and opportunities faced by farmers on Kauai and from across the State.

He has specifically worked on water, land and infrastructure issues as President of the East Kauai Water User's Cooperative, and a member of the Stakeholder & Technical Advisory Committee for the County of Kauai Important Agricultural Lands (IAL) Study, and Associate Director of the East Kauai Soil and Water Conservation District.

Jerry brings to the table a unique combination of experience, critical thinking skills, and specific experience with land and infrastructure policy which has given him the tools for this role, along with a personal dedication to preserve agricultural lands and water systems and improve the situation of farmers statewide. We encourage you to support his appointment without delay. Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Roy Oyama  
President – Kauai County Farm Bureau

**Sarah Styan  
P.O. Box 402  
Hanapepe, HI  
96716**

**March 30, 2010**

**ATTN: Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian  
Affairs  
Senator Clayton Hee (Chair), Jill Tokuda (Vice Chair) and  
Members of the Committee**

**RE: Referring to GM 374 – Appointment to Board of Agriculture  
Testimony of Kauai County Farm Bureau in SUPPORT  
Roy Oyama, President**

**HEARING DATE: March 31<sup>st</sup> at 3:15 p.m, Conference Room 229**

**I would like to provide testimony in support of appointment of Jerry L. Ornellas to  
the Board of Agriculture.**

Jerry has worked in agriculture on Kauai for the past 40 years and is an example by which others aspire to in terms of his participation, knowledge, experience and contributions to the agricultural community on Kauai and throughout the state.

He has a wide range of experience in working together with farmers, researchers, community members and policy makers to address issues facing Agriculture which would be a strong asset to the Board of Agriculture. In addition to his experience, his passion for the long term success of Agriculture in Hawaii provides a strong foundation for him to serve in this role.

I have every confidence that Jerry would be an asset to the Board of Agriculture and would be a strong voice for farmers and Agriculture on Kauai and around the State.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sarah Styan  
Board Member, Kauai County Farm Bureau

**TESTIMONY**  
**GM 374**  
**(END)**