

TESTIMONY
GM 459

GM459

Statement for Board of Agriculture Nomination

Michelle Galimba

April 3, 2010

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

I would like to serve on the Board of Agriculture because I believe in the importance of nurturing smart, innovative agriculture in our state. Also I am able to offer the perspective of a young agricultural producer, as well as the perspective of a Ka'u rancher, all of which are important perspectives to include on the board.

(2) How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Board 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.

I perceive the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Board of Agriculture as providing guidance and community input to the various programs of the Department of Agriculture, being a "ear to the ground" that keeps track of changing conditions and needs in the agricultural community and bringing this awareness to the board's considerations. I feel that I am qualified for the position because, in addition to my involvement in the cattle industry, I have been involved in both the papaya and coffee industries and therefore have also been exposed to the key issues for these industries. This exposure to a broad spectrum of agricultural industries, as well as my network of friends in other agricultural industries will help me to serve effectively on the Board of Agriculture.

(4) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?

As a member of the Board of Agriculture I would like to support increased public awareness of the critical role that agriculture plays in increasing our economic and environmental sustainability. I would also like to decrease the barriers to entry for young people who would like to work in agriculture, especially those who wish to start innovative agricultural enterprises.

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

Three qualities that describe me are: pragmatist, collaborator, listener/learner. Being a pragmatist means being open to a range of ideas but always working with current conditions, so that actions are congruent with the needs of the agricultural community as much as possible. Being a collaborator, I like to maximize the potential of the entire group of which I am a part. Being a calm listener will benefit the Board of Agriculture because careful listening often leads to solutions and consensual decision-making.

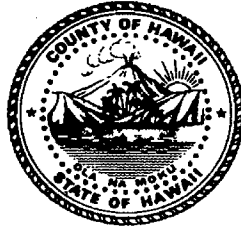
(6) Name one previous experience that would make you stand out. How would this benefit the Board of Agriculture?

An experience that makes me stand out has been my family's decision to hold cattle in Hawaii for local consumption, rather than shipping them to the mainland as has been the common practice in the cattle industry for the past few decades. This has led all of us in my family to become engaged with issues of food security and the shortcomings in our current agricultural infrastructure to meet the needs of increased food self-sufficiency. In particular I have learnt a great deal about the marketing aspect of agriculture in the past few years, and how important it is to making agriculture a vital part of our future. Not just marketing my particular product, but marketing agriculture as a whole. I have been involved in everything from media campaign, creating or reviving agricultural festivals (Taste of the Hawaiian Range, the Ka'u Coffee Festival), to industry self-organization.

(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?

I can foresee one potential conflict of interest. This would occur if land that our ranch currently leases from the DLNR is transferred to DOA and approval of this lease comes before the board. In this case I would abstain from discussion and decision-making on this item.

GUY ENRIQUES
Council Member
Council District 6



Phone: (808) 961-8536
Fax: (808) 961-8912
Email: genriques@co.hawaii.hi.us

County of Hawai'i
Office of the County Clerk
25 Aupuni Street
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

April 6, 2010

RE: GM 459
HEARING: 4/7/2010
TIME: 2:45 PM

SUBJECT: Nomination of MICHELLE M. GALIMBA

Aloha Senator Clayton Hee
and the members of the Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs,

On the south side of the Big Island, I can think of few people with as much breadth of knowledge or experience with agriculture and the issues facing our farmers today, than Michelle Galimba.

She has recently proven to be an invaluable participant in establishing the Ka'u Coffee Festival and has been an outstanding officer for the county Community Development Plan in the Ka'u district.

Thank you for considering her nomination.

Sincerely,

Guy Enriques

GE/bw

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
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 2010
2:45 P.M.
ROOM 229**

**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 459
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF
DIRECTORS OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, MICHELLE M. GALIMBA,
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 Ms. Michelle M. Galimba for a four-year term to the Board of Agriculture. Ms. Galimba is a rancher on her family's Kuahiwi Ranch located on 10,000 acres in the Kau District of the Big Island. In addition to ranching duties, she is responsible for the accounting and marketing for the ranch. Born and raised in Kau, Ms. Galimba has also lived in Haleiwa on Oahu and attended the University of Oregon where she received a B.A. in Asian Studies and the University of California, Berkeley, where she earned an M.A. and Ph.D. in Comparative Literature.

Prior to joining the family business, Ms. Galimba worked on the Papaya Administrative Committee and was a Legislative Researcher for the Hawaii Senate Ways and Means Committee. She is very active within the cattle industry serving as the Vice President of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Association, as well as within her community. Ms. Galimba is the President of Ka Ohana O Honuapo which is a community

organization, she also serves on the Steering Committee to develop the Kau Community Development Plan, as well as the Big Island Resource Conservation & Development board, and will be concluding her term on the Kau

Ms. Galimba is an accomplished and well respected individual within the cattle industry and agriculture in general on the Big Island. She is a well-spoken advocate for the cattle industry while unselfishly sharing her skills and knowledge with other agriculturists in Kau and the Big Island.

We are very pleased that the Board of Agriculture can look forward to having someone who represents a part of the Big Island that is establishing a world-wide reputation for fine coffee as well as for its beef and other agricultural products. We are confident that Ms. Galimba will be a valued addition and great asset if she is confirmed to serve on the Board of Agriculture.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in her behalf.

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

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

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Wednesday, April 7, 2010
TIME: 2:45 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 229
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

GM 459

Testimony

Status

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to WTL
the Board of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee,
MICHELLE M. GALIMBA, for a term to expire
6-30-2014.

Dear Chair Person Hee,

Please support Michelle M. Galimba for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee for a term to expire 6-30-2014. Ms Galimba is a very knowledgeable person, with many years of experience in the Agriculture Industry. She has a lot to offer, and is committed to the success of Agriculture.

Sincerely,

William G. Jacintho
Maui Cattlemen's Association President

Testimony reg. GM 459, April 7th, 2010; time of hearing: 2.45pm on behalf of Ms. Michelle Galimba to be nominated to the Board of Agriculture.

My name is Joachim Oster and I support Ms. Galimba's nomination to the Board of Agriculture. For a year I have had the opportunity and pleasure to work closely with Michelle on the Big Island Resource & Development Council (BIRC&D), part of the NRCS/USDA nationwide volunteer organization. We both hold director positions for our respective districts of Kona and Ka'u. In addition I chair the Committee of Agriculture within the BIRC&D. Professionally I own a vertically integrated coffee farm, process and retail 3 brands of coffee worldwide.

Michelle Galimba would be an excellent choice to represent Hawaiian agriculture, the various nurseries, forestry, ranches and farms, their opportunities and concerns. Her professional background as a rancher, running a multigenerational family farm, paired with a sharp and uncanny ability to identify the core of a problem, more than qualify her for this position. With her friendly, yet determined demeanor she was instrumental in organizing the very successful, annual Ka'u Coffee Festival for several years. Michelle can not only articulate present issues precisely, but, maybe even more important, she is able to envision future challenges to the complex social-economic dynamics of food production.

Hawaii is at a unique point in time, where there's more consumer awareness towards its value-added agricultural products, combined with more opportunities than ever for farmers to market those through various channels to more countries. Michelle Galimba's political participation to help steer our state's agriculture in these interesting times is the right thing and full-heartedly supported from my side.

Respectfully

Joachim Oster
PO Box 286
Kealahou, HI 96750
tel 808 328-1401

GM459 Galimba

April 4, 2010
Ka`u, Hawaii

To: Honorable Senator Clayton Hee,
Michelle Galimba has my complete support to sit on the Board of Agriculture. She has first hand knowledge of what people who are trying to produce agricultural products must go through to get that product to market. She is also very aware of the threats to our agricultural lands by an eagerness on the part of developers to cover our prime Ag lands with homes. She is well educated and has been exposed to many differing points of view, thus affording her an open mind. She is well aware of the threat that Hawaii faces in regard to food security in these uncertain economic and political times. Her strongest attribute is probably that Michelle is of this land; she comes from Agriculture born and raised. She is well known in the Agricultural community and knows their concerns. I strongly recommend that you place Michelle on the Board of Agriculture for our State of Hawaii. Only good can come of that decision, I encourage you to make it so.

Respectfully,
John R. Replogle
808-936-7161
Ka`u, Hawaii

GM459 Galimba

KAHUA RANCH, LTD.
P. O. Box 837
Kamuela, Hawaii 96743
(808) 882-4646
(808) 882-4444 Fax

April 5, 2010

**The hearing for Michelle Galimba's confirmation to the Board of Agriculture
(GM 459)
Wednesday, April 7 at 2:45 PM in room 229 before the Senate WTL committee,
Chair Senator Clayton Hee and Vice Chair Jill Tokuda.**

Dear Senators,

I am writing on behalf of Michelle Galimba; candidate for appointment to the Hawaii State Board of Agriculture.

I have known Michelle Galimba for almost 20 years. During that time, I have worked with her in numerous capacities. Initially as a fellow family rancher, Michelle and I have since collaborated on many projects. Involved with the Hawaii Cattle Producers Cooperative, we have worked on the Hawaiian Cattle Industry and redeveloping local markets. She has also been a focal point for the extremely successful "Taste of the Hawaiian Range" event held each fall which showcases Hawaii's diversified agricultural productivity. During this time she also serves on the Executive Board for the Hawaii Cattlemen's Association; the local branch of the of the state Hawaii Cattlemen's Council. Currently she is the President Elect. (The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc. (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the five county level Cattlemen's Associations. Our 130+ member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of approximately 25% of the State's total land mass.)

During this time, Michelle's dedication and commitment to the betterment of Hawaii's Agriculture has been tireless. Her attention to all aspects of agriculture; from production to marketing to legislation has been consistent. She has the general wellbeing of agriculture at heart.

I recommend Michelle Galimba's nomination be confirmed without any reservations.

Respectfully,

Tim

Herbert M. "Tim" Richards III, DVM
President & General Manager
Kahua Ranch Limited

GM459 Galimba

Senate WTL committee

Hearing Date: Wednesday, April 7 at 2:45pm in room 229

Chair Senator Clayton Hee and Vice Chair Jill Tokuda

Testimony:

I, Amber Starr, am in support of Michelle Galimba's confirmation to the Board of Agriculture (GM 459).

Thank you,

Amber Starr

GM459 Galimba

Subject | **Testimony in SUPPORT of MICHELLE M. GALIMBA**

Reference: Time: 2:24 p.m. Date: April 7, 2010 #: GM459

Earlier this year I was fortunate enough to meet Michelle Galimba at a dinner featuring Kuahiwi beef. While the meal was appetizing, it was my conversation with Michelle that was most beneficial. As a hands on food grower from a food growing family rooted in Hawaii, Michelle was able to share her knowledge in a manner that encouraged me to make changes in my dietary and purchasing practices. I in turn shared my knowledge with my family and am proud to say that more than one household has adopted better dietary and purchasing practices as a result of Michelle's information.

I encourage the confirmation and approval of Michelle M. Galimba for the State of Hawaii Board of Agriculture.

Mahalo,
L.P. Faleafine

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L.P. "Neenz" Faleafine
Building Communities, Forming Partnerships
98-1277 Kaahumanu Street #106-129
Aiea, HI 96701
[mobile] 808-542-5207
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[Twitter] @NEENZ

From: Keith Unger [kaimiunger@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 05, 2010 2:31 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: GM 459 Committee on Water, Land, Ag and hawaiian Affairs

In regard to Notice of Hearing

Date: Wednesday, April 7, 2010

Time: 2:45 pm

Place: Conference Room 229,
State Capitol,
415 South Beretania Street

re: GM 459 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, Michelle M. Galimba.

Dear Senator Clayton Hee, Chair, Senator Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair and members,

I have worked with Michelle at the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council and believe she will be an asset to the Board of Agriculture and in general, to agriculture in Hawaii. Therefore, I strongly recommend her consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture.

Sincerely,

Keith Unger
McCandless Ranch

GM459 Galimba

Hawaii Beef Producers LLC.

P.O. Box 388
Paauilo, HI 96776
(P) 776-1109
(F) 776-1908

Date: 04-01-10

Subject: Committee for the Nomination to the Board of Agriculture

Fr: Jill Mattos, Hawaii Beef Producers

Committee:

My name is Jill Mattos. I am a rancher and general manager at Hawaii Beef Producers. I would like to declare my support for Michelle Galimba in her bid for the Board of Agriculture. I have known Michelle Galimba as a friend, a rancher, a marketer, and as a farmer. Michelle is successful because she is hard-working, innovative, open-minded and dedicated to improving agriculture on the Big Island. Her business plans, knowledge in developing procedures are professional. A prime example of her passion is the natural beef program where ranchers, the consumers, and even the community at large are solid winners. She is a person who will help us in a manner that will benefit the entire island. So I ask you to please support my nomination of Michelle Galimba to the board.

Yours truly,

Jill J. Mattos
General Manager

From: lisa asagi [lisa.asagi@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 05, 2010 9:20 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: GM 459 Testimony, 4/7/10, 2:45pm

Submitting testimony in favor of confirmation to the Board of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, MICHELLE M. GALIMBA, for a term to expire 6-30-2014.
GM 459, 4/7/10, 2:45 p.m.

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair
and members of the Committee:

Asagi Hatchery, Inc., has been hatching chicken eggs and providing chicks for farms in the state of Hawaii and the Pacific region for 75 years.

We wholeheartedly support the nomination of MICHELLE M. GALIMBA to the Board of Agriculture.

We believe that Ms. Galimba is a candidate of the highest caliber and will bring much benefit to the community if elected to the board. Her expertise, experience, and knowledge of and within the agricultural community will be of great value especially at this critical time.

As members of the livestock industry in Hawaii, we also believe that Ms. Galimba will bring much needed representation for the concerns of our state's livestock industry.

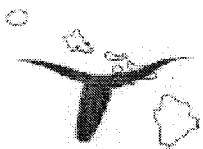
In addition to her extensive background in livestock community, Ms. Galimba has also lent her energy and expertise to help many farmers in her region of Ka'u over the years. This generosity and commitment to the survival of not just her family's livestock operation, but to the survival of all farmers in her region, is a measure of her scope of vision and her deep understanding of community.

We could not wish for a stronger or more qualified candidate for this position than Ms. Galimba.

We strongly support Michelle Galimba's nomination. If there are any questions, please contact Lisa Asagi at 387-2603.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

Sincerely,
Lisa Asagi
Asagi Hatchery, Inc.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

P O Box 437199 Kamuela HI 96743
Phone (808) 885-5599 • Fax (808) 887-1607
e-mail: HCattlemens@hawaii.rr.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

GM 459

Consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee,
MICHELLE M. GALIMBA
for a term to expire 6-30-2014.

April 7, 2009 2:45 pm

Chairman Hee and Members of the Committee:

My name is Alan Gottlieb, and I am the President of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc. (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the five county level Cattlemen's Associations. Our 130+ member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of approximately 25% of the State's total land mass.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **strongly supports** GM 459 nominating Michelle Galimba to the Hawaii Board of Agriculture.

Michelle is a rising star in the Hawaii Cattle industry. She has taken on a leadership role in our industry association and is currently the Vice President of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Association, our Big Island Chapter. Michelle works with her family, raising cattle, and they have worked hard to create a brand and market for their product in local niche markets. Whenever our State-wide industry association has asked Michelle for help on any project she has more than willingly stepped up, often volunteering for projects when no-one else did. Michelle has great integrity and is a very hard working individual. Michelle will represent the agricultural industry well on the Board of Agriculture.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify in strong support of GM 459 nominating Michelle M. Galimba to the Hawaii Board of Agriculture.

TESTIMONY GM 459

Friday, April 2, 2010

Aloha Senators Clayton Hee and Jill Tokuda:

Please give your full support to Michelle M. Galimba for the Hawaii State Board of Agriculture.

I've known Michelle for roughly 4 years and have become close friends with her and her family in that short time. The Galimba family is well liked and respected within the cattle industry. They are good stewards of the land and have a high standard of animal husbandry and compassion. The family also embodies the spirit of community and many in Ka'u will attest to that. As one community member said, "The family would bend over backwards for the community".

Michelle has a keen intellect and her knowledge spans a broad spectrum of subjects and issues. She will be a huge asset when you consider the major challenges Hawaii is facing in terms of food and energy security.

She is selfless with her time and energy in advancing the Hawaii cattle industry. The industry needs to find solutions to host of issues concerning the "broken system" of getting cattle to the Hawaii market. The industry is fortunate to have her at this critical juncture.

Michelle has also been a force behind the launch of the fledgling Ka'u coffee industry. She's a key organizer of the Ka'u Coffee Festival, which will be celebrating its 2nd annual this May. This is but one example of her community activism and there are many.

She envisions agriculture as being the engine for economic development and the revitalization of Ka'u. I believe the vast majority of people who call Ka'u home also share in this vision. They want to preserve their way of life and sense of place. She, along with other community leaders is taking steps towards realizing that vision.

Again, please cast your support for Michelle Galimba to the Board of Agriculture. She is well prepared to make valuable contributions to Hawaii agriculture.

Respectfully,

Daniel S. Nakasone
President, Brainstorm Marketing, Inc. and
Part-time ranch hand, North Shore Cattle Company

TESTIMONY
GM 459
(END)