

GM 504

LATE

TESTIMONY OF **DAVID TARNAS**
IN **SUPPORT** OF GM 504
TO CONFIRM THE APPOINTMENT OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
AS CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2011
2:45PM
STATE CAPITOL, CONFERENCE ROOM 229

LATE

Aloha.

My name is David Tarnas. I am a resident of Waimea on the Island of Hawaii. Over the years, I have known Russell Kokubun as he effectively represented this island in the State Senate. He demonstrated a set of strong skills needed to build public private partnerships, master complex technical issues, and discern appropriate and effective actions to achieve policy goals. These skills will serve him well in his new position as Chair of the Board of Agriculture.

The agriculture industry needs a champion who can work with all different types of agricultural producers, and balance the needs of agricultural producers, their neighbors and other potential land uses.

Sustainability for Hawaii will depend on optimizing the local agricultural production of food, fuel and fiber, and providing the policy and funding support for agriculture infrastructure including water, transportation and inspections. I am confident that Russell Kokubun can guide the policies and programs of the Department of Agriculture to navigate through the potential conflicts, and achieve success.

Please support the confirmation of Russell Kokubun as Chairperson of the Hawaii Board of Agriculture.

Mahalo.

David Tarnas
P.O. Box 6882
Kamuela, HI 96743



LATE

Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.
Cindy Goldstein, Ph. D

GM 504

Relating to Consideration and Confirmation to the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture
Gubernatorial Nominee, Russell Kokubun

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
February 10, 2011 at 2:45PM
Conference Room 229

Chairman Nishihara, Vice Chair Kahele and members of the Committee

My name is Cindy Goldstein, representing Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., with facilities on Oahu and Kauai.

Pioneer Hi-Bred **strongly supports** the confirmation of gubernatorial nominee Russell Kokubun to the position of Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture.

Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. produces corn, soybean and sunflower seed crops in Hawaii, with operations in four locations in the state. We carry out research and development at our sites and multiply seed to develop new hybrids and varieties that are more productive for farmers in the US and around the world. Pioneer employs approximately 400 people in a wide range of types of jobs on Oahu and Kauai.

Russell Kokubun brings many years of experience and understanding of agriculture policy to the role of Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture. As a former Senator, Mr. Kokubun is an outstanding nominee, with great depth of knowledge of Hawaii's diverse agricultural operations. Has been fair and very level headed in the past handling a range of issues impacting Hawaii agriculture. Russell Kokubun has shown an ability to tackle challenging subjects with great impact on Hawaii agriculture and bring groups and people with differing opinions together to develop strategy and policy. This ability combined with a strong background and understanding of local agriculture production prepares this nominee to do well in the role of Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture.

Russell Kokubun is well respected by Pioneer and many others that are part of Hawaii's agriculture business sector. Pioneer is pleased to be able to support the confirmation of this outstanding nominee.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony for this confirmation hearing.

BIG ISLAND FARM BUREAU



P.O. Box 1630
Kamuela, HI. 96743

Phone: 808-775-8015

Fax: 808-775-9115

E-mail: bifb@hawaiiantel.net

LATE

TESTIMONY on GM 504 Nominee Russell S. Kokubun

Hearing: Tuesday, February 10, 2011 @ 2:45 p.m
Conference Room 229

Senator Nishihara, Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture

Aloha Chairpersons and Committee Members,

We **STRONGLY SUPPORT** Gubernatorial Nominee 504 ~ Russell Kokubun for the Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture and respectfully request your support in his confirmation.

My name is Lorie Farrell; I am the executive director for the Big Island Farm Bureau. We are the largest general agriculture organization on the Island of Hawaii; representing over 650 agricultural members/producers. The Big Island Farm Bureau is comprised of the individual farm bureau chapters on the Big Island and we are directly related to the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation and affiliated with the American Farm Bureau Federation.

Mr. Kokubun has proven his abilities on many different issues and brings a wealth of knowledge and understanding. His contribution to the "Important Ag Lands Legislation" and the 2050 plan has showcased his considerable talents. He brings a broad experience to the Dept. of Agriculture and we anticipate this appointment to benefit the people of Hawaii.

We respectfully ask your support to confirm GM 504; Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Lorie Farrell

Big Island Farm Bureau

c.c.
Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation
Government Affairs Committee
Myrone Murakami, President

ALUMSIDE
PRODUCTS, INC.
Custom Glass & Screen Service

20 KUKILA STREET • HILO, HAWAII 96720
PH: (808) 935-5485 FAX: (808) 969-3376
Contr. Lic. C-20001

February 9, 2011

Hawaii State Senate Agriculture Committee
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chairperson
Senator Gilbert Kahele, Vice-Chair
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz
Senator Ronald Kouchi
Senator Maile Shimabukuro
Senator Jill Tokuda
Senator Glenn Wakai
Senator Sam Slom

LATE

Re: GM504 Confirmation of Russell Kokubun

Senators:


I am writing in **support** of Russell Kokubun's nomination to be the Director of the Department of Agriculture.

I have had the opportunity to interact with Mr. Kokubun and he has more than exemplified the model of a public servant. His commitment to our community and concern for the citizens will allow him to transition well to leading the DOA.

Mr. Kokubun has developed a good relationship with many people over the years within government, the community and the business sector. This open line of communication will allow him to reach out and serve the public with a balanced perspective and to deal with the many challenges ahead.

Once again, I humbly request your favorable approval of Russell Kokubun as the Director of the Department of Agriculture. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Conrad Hokama
Vice-President

Castle & Cooke
Hawaii

LATE

PO BOX 1000
AGLHC, Honolulu, HI 96807
Tel: (808) 546-6659
Mailing: (808) 546-6659
FAX: (808) 546-6659
E-mail: (808) 546-6659

Harry A. Saunders
President

Fax Submittal: 586-6659
Email Submittal: AGLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

Testimony by **Harry Saunders**
President, Castle & Cooke Hawai'i
February 10, 2011

Before the Senate Committee on AGRICULTURE

February 10, 2011
2:45 p.m.
Room 229

In Support of GM 504
CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
For
Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture

Dear Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kahele and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture:

We support the nomination of RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN for the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture.

Mr. Kokubun brings an extensive background in County and State policy making as well as program implementation as a former county planner and a practical perspective of being in the agri-business industry. His balanced perspectives and pragmatism will be beneficial to the State Agriculture department as the agriculture industry continues to be refined to maintain a key economic presence in Hawai'i.

While Hawai'i's food sustainability and security are desirable goals, the agriculture industry faces many old and new challenges. Labor, water, fuel costs, transportation, world markets/competition, marketing and distribution, financing, subsidies, new science and technology are just a few issues that need to be addressed to help the local agriculture industry. The discussion of available and suitable land continues to be debated.

Mr. Kokubun's experience, intelligence and integrity will engage many stakeholders to seek reasonable approaches. Therefore, we feel he would be very capable, fair and equitable in the capacity of the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture.

We respectfully request your consideration and urge you to approve his nomination.

Please contact me at 548-4863 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

CASTLE & COOKE HAWAII

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H.A. Saunders', written over the company name.

Harry A. Saunders
President

nishihara5 - Randy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2011 6:25 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: duke@sandwichisles.net
Subject: Testimony for GM504 on 2/10/2011 2:45:00 PM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

LATE

Testimony for AGL 2/10/2011 2:45:00 PM GM504

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Marion K A Kapuniai
Organization: Waimea Hawn Homesteaders' Assn, Inc.
Address: Kamuela, HI 96743
Phone: 808-890-2311
E-mail: duke@sandwichisles.net
Submitted on: 2/9/2011

Comments:

We look forward to an aggressive promotion of sustainability for each island economy, being fostered with favorable terms for agricultural (food production) pursuits.

Thank you!

The Twenty-Sixth Legislature
Regular Session of 2011

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair

LATE

State Capitol, Conference Room 229
Thursday, February 10, 2011; 2:45 p.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON G.M. 504
RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
FOR CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

The ILWU Local 142 **strongly supports** G.M. 504 and the confirmation of Russell S. Kokubun for Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture.

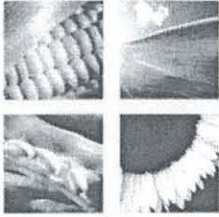
Mr. Kokubun is well suited to be the chair of the Board of Agriculture, in part because he moved to the Big Island to pursue a career in agriculture after graduating from college with a business degree. While his career path eventually took him well beyond his farm, we believe his heart is and always will be in agriculture--growing food for Hawaii's people, retaining open spaces, preserving the rural lifestyle.

As chair of the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Task Force, Mr. Kokubun helped develop a plan for Hawaii to live sustainably, to use our natural resources responsibly and respectfully, to replenish our resources for future generations, to develop a vibrant and nurturing community, and to respect the culture and character of our island peoples. Mr. Kokubun is concerned about food security and the role of agriculture to meet the needs of Hawaii's people, but he is also concerned about ensuring a good quality of life for those who produce our food and tend to our open spaces.

Although Mr. Kokubun was born and raised in Honolulu, he chose to move to the Big Island to work on a farm. Very few Punahou graduates can say the same. He later purchased and began operating his own farm in Volcano. His agricultural experience on the Big Island, his multiple positions in state and county government, including 10 years in the State Senate, and his work in the private sector have all shaped Russell Kokubun to be the caring, thoughtful person he is today--qualities that are needed in leadership positions of any organization.

Mr. Kokubun is eminently qualified to be the chairperson of the Board of Agriculture. The ILWU urges confirmation by the State Senate.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our views.



Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

Growing the Future of Worldwide Agriculture in Hawaii

Testimony By: **Alicia Maluafiti, Executive Director**

GM 504 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN, for a term to expire December 31, 2014.

The Senate Committee on Agriculture
Thursday, February 10, 2011
Room 229, 2:45 p.m.

LATE

**HCIA 2010-2012
Board of Directors**

President
Fred Perlak

Vice President
Laurie Goodwin

Treasurer
John Anderson

Secretary
Alika Napier

Directors At Large

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Cindy Goldstein
Adolph Helm
Kirby Kester
Steve Lupkes
Mark Phillipson
Mark Stoufemyer
Alan Takemoto

Past President
Adolph Helm

Executive Director
Alicia Maluafiti

Position: Strongly Support

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kahele and members of the Committee:

My name is Alicia Maluafiti, Executive Director of the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association, a nonprofit trade association representing the seed industry in Hawaii. HCIA **strongly supports** the confirmation of Russell Kokubun as Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture.

Russell Kokubun has spent a lifetime advocating for the best interests of the agricultural industry – from small farmer days, to his days on county council, to his leadership days in the Hawaii State Senate. But it is his love of the land and commitment to these islands that ensure a voice for agriculture within Governor Abercrombie's administration as well as at the local, state and federal level.

He can be what has been missing in the dialogue around ag sustainability and food security: a leader that can bring all sides together. From preserving our important agricultural lands to coexistence among farmers growing organic, convention or biotech crops, we have a number of issues that require policy solutions. From small farmer to large agribusiness, from aquaculture to rancher - we need a ubiquitous voice that we can all trust to lead us to 2050. I believe we can all agree on one thing: Russell Kokubun speaks for ag.

Mahalo for the privilege of supporting the appointment of Russell Kokubun.

nishihara5 - Randy

From: Jerryl [manaohawaii@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2011 9:13 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Subject: Chairperson Board of Agriculture "Confirmation" Senator Russell Kokubon

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

February 9, 2011

LATE

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2011

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Thursday, February 10, 2011
TIME: 2:45 PM
PLACE: Conference Room 229
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

My name is **Jerryl K. Mauhili**, I am a Kanaka Maoli, Native Hawaiian residing on the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands Agricultural Lot located on the Big Island of Hawaii. I, along with other Native Hawaiian Agricultural Lot Lessees agree that Senator Russell Kokubon definitely has the past experience and knowledge in understanding the current and future scenarios that will confront any and all participants involving their livelihood that focuses on "AGRICULTURE".

Senator Kokubon has attended many of our Keaukaha Pana'ewa Farmers Association Community Meetings over the years past and has shared his knowledge and compassion when addressing our particular needs and questions. We've concentrated on linking "Education" as the utmost requirement to emphasize a successful path for our struggling DHHL Agricultural Lessees. Both Workshops and Hands-On farm practices can and will set examples to follow and eliminate struggles and hardships amongst our constituents. Both the University of Hawaii Hilo CTHAR Extension and the Federal Pacific Basin Agricultural Research Center (PBARC) have agreed to provide research and investigative studies towards teaching our organization and it's members planting techniques, soil composition (PH) levels, pest management, and marketing assistance.

Our struggles also include Financial deficits and the "lack of" adequate operational Grants and Loans that are necessary in establishing Department of Agricultural approved food processing facilities that will safeguard consumption by the general public. Many restrictions and awareness procedures will need to be learned in order to achieving Quality, Volume, and Consistency as we strive towards success. For years, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands have issued Agricultural & Pastoral Lots but have not provided adequate Financial Programs that are necessary to purchasing equipment, seed stocks, fertilizers, packaging, and marketing negotiations.

As the Host Society (Native Kanaka Maoli / Native Hawaiians), it is imperative that we can continue to plant the traditional foods and conventional crops that fill our local retail market shelves. In addition, Farmers Markets like those located in Waimea, Maku'u, and the proposed new Pana'ewa locations on Department of Hawaiian Home lands can and will provide Economic opportunities. The ability of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to reclassify their Agriculture Lands to include Commercial Agricultural have allowed these opportunities to exist.

Senator Russell Kokubon has seen this at the above locations and observed the economic venues that have grown and benefit both Native Hawaiians and neighboring communities. We embrace Senator Kokubon's awareness and support in assisting our Culture, Traditions, and Lifestyle as we face the future of constant changes. Please allow our confirmation and choice of leadership at this executive level.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Jerryl K. Mauhili, Kanaka Maoli Disadvantaged Farmer

Matthew Loke, Ph.D.
91-1058 Kekuilani Loop
Kapolei, HI 96707

TESTIMONY OF MATTHEW LOKE
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE

LATE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2011
2:45 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 229

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 504
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS
CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,
RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2014

Chairperson Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of GM 504. All of us in the agriculture industry are keenly aware of the difficult challenges we face on an ongoing basis. In the past year alone, we discovered new destructive pests such as the coffee berry borer and the small hive beetle; endured a prolonged drought that reduced crop yields and threatened the very existence of the cattle industry; and confronted bi-monthly furloughs, drastic budget cuts and reduction- in- force that sharply curtailed the capacity of the Department of Agriculture.

To succeed in such difficult times, it is imperative for the agricultural industry to have a strong, visionary leader -- one who can identify with this multi-faceted industry; one who understands the aspirations of the producers, especially on the neighbor islands; one who comprehends how market works; one who recognizes the contributions and limitations of government; and one who appreciates the value of listening, motivation and collaboration.

In addition to his strong background in farming, planning and public service, I believe **Russell S. Kokubun** is the ideal candidate at this time for the position of Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture. Hence, I request your committee's full support for this nomination.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

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



LATE

February 9, 2011

ATTN: Senate Committee on Agriculture
Sen. Nishihara (Chair) and Members of the Committee

RE: GM504 Confirmation of Russell S. Kokubun
Testimony of Kauai County Farm Bureau in STRONG SUPPORT
Roy Oyama, President

HEARING DATE: February 10, 2011 2:45pm Conference Room 229

Kauai County Farm Bureau on behalf of our member farm and ranch families, and affiliated with Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, **testifies in strong support of GM504 relating to the confirmation of Russell S. Kokubun as Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, for a term to expire December 31, 2014.**

Over the years as a State Senator, Russell Kokubun has demonstrated both an understanding and strong support of agriculture and its importance to the state of Hawaii. This experience and commitment will be an asset to the Board of Agriculture and we look forward to the possibility of working with him in the future.

It is a stated goal of our government to work together to provide for a sustainable and prosperous future for our state and its diverse communities, with greater food security and a strong agriculture industry. A strong Board and Department of Agriculture is a critical component of achieving this objective.

Please support his confirmation. Mahalo for your consideration.

Affiliated with the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, the Kauai County Farm Bureau represents over 300 members on Kauai. The Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF) is a non-profit organization of farming families united for the purpose of analyzing problems and formulating action to ensure the future of agriculture thereby promoting the well-being of farming and the State's economy.

Sincerely,

Roy Oyama
President - Kauai County Farm Bureau
Oyama_farm@yahoo.com

CC: **Melissa McFerrin**
Executive Administrator - Kauai County Farm Bureau
kcfb@hawaiiantel.net

Radcliffe & Associates, LLC

222 South Vineyard Street, Suite 401, Honolulu, HI 96813-2453 Phone (808) 524-4459 Fax (808) 599-4340

January 30, 2011

LATE

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair
Committee on Agriculture
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 229

RE: GM504 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN, for a term to expire December 31, 2014.

Dear Chairman Nishihara, Vice Chairman Kahele and Members of the Committee:

My name is **John Radcliffe** and I very **strongly support** the Governor's nomination of Senator Russell Kokubun to be Director of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Kokubun is, and has been, a farmer, as well as an agricultural policy maker of note. He has walked the walk, as well as talked the talk. And now he will be putting his experience as a farmer and as a policy maker together in a practical way to direct activities the very important Department of Agriculture. Rarely does such a confluence of talent, skill, ability, and personal history come together in a single individual at a time when such a convergence is needed.

We are fortunate that such happenstance, fate, coincidence, has occurred here.

Please confirm the right man for the right job at the right time.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written comments.

Sincerely,

John H. Radcliffe



EAST OAHU COUNTY FARM BUREAU

45-260 WAIKALUA ROAD S 101 KANEEOHE, HI 96744

February 9, 2011

LATE

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture
State Capitol Building, 415 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

I am sending this testimony to express the **strong support** of the East Oahu County Farm Bureau for the nomination of Russell S. Kokubun as Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture. As the previous chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee, Mr. Kokubun proved himself to be a strong and knowledgeable supporter of Hawaii's agriculture. He is an excellent choice to guide and motivate the Agriculture Department as it recovers from the severe cuts of the last few years. We therefore ask for a speedy approval of Mr. Kokubun's nomination.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Frederick M. Mencher
for Grant Hamachi, President

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
SENATOR CLARENCE K. NISHIHARA, CHAIR
SENATOR GILBERT KAHELE, VICE CHAIR

NOTICE OF HEARING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARAY 10, 2011
2:45 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 229

LATE

GM 504 – CONFORMATION HEARING
RUSSELL KOKUBUN AS HDOA CHAIRPERSON

Dear Senators:

I **fully support** the conformation of Russell Kokubun as the Hawaii Department of Agriculture Chairperson.

Mr. Kokubun has the knowledge, background and vision to lead the department in this critical time where our level food security is not secure. In this age of climate and energy crisis, Hawaii needs to ramp-up a critical mass of local food production. I believe Mr. Kokubun is a great “connector” of people and will find creative solutions to improve our local food system.

With the looming energy crisis on the horizon, there should be no higher priority than our food and energy security. With highly regarded experts predicting \$200 a-barrel oil by 2013, time is a luxury we do not have.

I’m confident as with many others that you will confirm Russell Kokubun as the HDOA Chairperson.

Respectfully,

Daniel S. Nakasone
President, Brainstorm Marketing, Inc.
Co-Founder, She Grows Food, LLC

nishihara1 - Dale

From: Sen. Clarence Nishihara
Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2011 9:26 AM
To: nishihara1 - Dale
Subject: FW: GM 504 - Committee confirmation of Russell Kokubun as Chair of the Department of Agriculture

LATE

From: Jason Knable [mailto:jknable@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2011 9:16 AM
To: Sen. Clarence Nishihara; Sen. Gilbert Kahele
Subject: GM 504 - Committee confirmation of Russell Kokubun as Chair of the Department of Agriculture

Chair Nishihara and Vice-Chair Kahele:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my **strong support** for the confirmation of Russell Kokubun as the Chair of the State Department of Agriculture.

I have personally known Russell for many years and even worked with Russell at the State Legislature as his Committee Clerk while he was the Chair of the Senate Water, Land and Agricultural Committee. As you probably are aware, Russell has always been a tireless advocate for agriculture and sustainability. Also, Russell has always been a natural leader and effective communicator. While working with Russell at the State Legislature, I observed that he was always engaged and always willing to listen, which was just a few of the reasons why Russell was so effective in every capacity he has served. I am confident that Russell's deep commitment to public service and for many reasons too long to list, he will be a great Chair of the Department of Agriculture, and make everyone in the State, including myself, extremely proud.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my testimony in support of GM 504.

Mahalo,
Jason Knable
3090 Ainaola Drive
Hilo, Hawaii 96720
808-386-9268

THE
TRUST
for
PUBLIC
LAND



HAWAII

LATE

**THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND'S TESTIMONY
IN SUPPORT OF GM 504 (CONFIRMATION OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN)
Senate Committee on Agriculture
Thursday, February 10, 2011, 2:45 p.m., Room 229**

The Trust for Public Land's (TPL's) Hawaiian Islands Program strongly supports the confirmation of Russell S. Kokubun as Chair of the Department of Agriculture. TPL worked with Mr. Kokubun on the passage of the Legacy Lands Act in 2005, which established the Legacy Land Conservation Fund or Land Conservation Fund (LCF), and has many interactions with Mr. Kokubun since. In all instances, Mr. Kokubun has been thoughtful, helpful, and has always sought a balanced solution in the best interests of Hawai'i's people.

TPL's mission is to conserve land for people. In Hawai'i, that mission includes the protection of agricultural land that can contribute to Hawai'i's food self-sufficiency. Mr. Kokubun has displayed an excellent knowledge and understanding of the challenges facing agricultural enterprises in Hawai'i, and is committed to increasing Hawai'i's food self-sufficiency and assisting farmers and agriculture enterprises. TPL strongly urges this Committee to support Mr. Kokubun's confirmation.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify -

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lea Hong".

Lea Hong
Hawaiian Islands Program Director
524-8563 (office), 783-3653 (cell)



**International Union of Painters and Allied Trades
District Council 50**

LATE

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION 2011

TIME/DATE: 2:45 p.m., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2011

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 504 – "SUBMITTING
FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE
BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, RUSSELL S.
KOKUBUN, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2014."

TO SENATOR CLARENCE NISHIHARA, CHAIR AND
MEMBERS OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE:

The International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, District Council 50,
appreciates the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of Governor's Message No. 504
– Gubernatorial Nominee, Russell S. Kokubun, to the Chairperson of the Board of
Agriculture. My name is **Nathaniel Kinney**, International Union of Painters and Allied
Trades, District Council 50, an organization comprised of four (4) unions, the Painters,
Local Union 1791; the Glaziers Architectural and Glass Metal Workers, Local Union
1889; the Carpet Linoleum and Soft Tile, Local Union 1926; and the Drywall, Tapers
Finishers, Local Union 1944, representing approximately 2000 members throughout the
State of Hawaii.

I am writing in strong support of Mr. Russell S. Kokubun to the Chairperson of
the Board of Agriculture. I believe that Mr. Kokubun will be a positive asset to the
board. Mr. Kokubun possesses a wide range of experience; from farming to planning to

2240 Young Street
Honolulu, HI 96826

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AND GLASS METAL
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AND SOFT TILE
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DRYWALL TAPERS
FINISHERS
808.843.7766

legislative. He has been instrumental in assembling a plan and Chairing the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Task Force which creates a balanced approach whereby economic, social and environmental goals are balanced for Hawaii's future. I also believe that because of Mr. Kokubun's experience in the legislature and his leadership ability, he will bring to the Board of Agriculture a unique understanding and perspective in the challenges that lay ahead. Thank you for the opportunity to testify and I humbly request you support the confirmation Mr. Russell S. Kokubun to the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture.

G.A. MORRIS, INC.

222 South Vineyard Street, Suite 401, Honolulu, HI 96813-2453 Phone (808) 531-4551 Fax (808) 533-4601

February 10, 2011

LATE

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair
Committee on Agriculture
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 229

RE: GM504 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN, for a term to expire December 31, 2014.

Dear Chairman Nishihara, Vice Chairman Kahele and Members of the Committee:

I would like to endorse the appointment of Russell Kokubun as Chairperson of the State Department of Agriculture.

I have known Russell since he was on the Big Island County Council. He is not only a dedicated and committed person but one that is understanding and caring.

He is a pleasure to work with and will be an asset to the state in his position as Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo for your support of his appointment.

Respectfully Submitted,

G.A. "Red" Morris
President