

GM 577

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512

RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

JAMES J. NAKATANI
Deputy to the Chairperson

TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON AGRICULTURE

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2011
2:45 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 229

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 577
SUBMITTING FOR THE CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, LETITIA UYEHARA,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2012.

Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Agriculture is in strong support of the nomination of Letitia Uyehara to the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) Board of Directors.

Ms. Uyehara's deep appreciation for agriculture was developed at a young age, and has been cultivated throughout her career as she served as Communications Officer and later as Deputy Director of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. Her impressive history in public service and her private sector experience in the wholesale distribution industry will be a definite asset that the ADC Board can draw on utilize to support existing and proposed agricultural enterprises in Hawaii.

Given Ms. Uyehara's extensive knowledge of the agriculture industry and her true passion for the state's farmers and agricultural industries, it is my hope that her nomination be given every consideration for this appointment.





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
AGRICULTURE

Thursday, April 14, 2011
2:45 pm
Conference Room 229

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 577
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD
OF DIRECTORS OF THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, LETITIA UYEHARA,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2012

Chairperson Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

The Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) is in support of the nomination of Letitia Uyehara to the ADC board of directors.

Ms. Uyehara has a strong background based in public service and agriculture. She is currently the Director of Marketing and Special Programs for the largest wholesale produce distribution company in the state, Armstrong Produce, and is a former Deputy Director and Communications Officer of the State Department of Agriculture (DOA). She also spent many years working in the Department of Health (DOH), first as a Hearings Officer for the Environmental

Protection and Health Services Division, and then as Director for the Office of Environmental Quality Control.

Ms. Uyehara has evolved to become one of the most recognized advocates and supporters of farmers and agriculture in the state. She is a regular contributor to farmer outreach programs and the local media on matters pertaining to local produce business and transportation, as well as food safety and traceability. Her background in environmental issues and regulation she gained working at DOH became a core strength which led to notable accomplishments during her tenure as DOA Deputy Director, to include creation of the interagency committee on Alien Species, legislation to expand open ocean aquaculture, and expansion of pesticide training programs which included support for immigrant farmer and farm worker languages.

With such a dynamic multi-skilled background and long career of service to our local agricultural industry, there is no question that Ms. Uyehara will be a valuable asset to the ADC Board.

Thank you.



Hawaii Farm Bureau
F E D E R A T I O N

2343 Rose Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Phone: (808) 848-2074 • Neighbor-Islands: (800) 482-1272
Fax: (808) 848-1921 • Email: info@hfbf.org
www.hfbf.org

APRIL 14, 2011
HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON GM 577

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, LETITIA UYEHARA

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kahele and Committee Members:

Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF), the largest non-profit agriculture advocacy organization in the state with approximately 1,600 farm and ranch family members is in strong support of the confirmation of Letitia Uyehara to the Agribusiness Development Corporation Board of Directors, At-Large, Oahu Director seat

Ms. Uyehara is a valued leader in Hawaii's Agricultural Industry and is well respected for her impressive credentials in public service, having served with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture as the Communications Officer and Deputy Director, and also with the Hawaii Department of Health as the Director of Environmental Quality Control and as a Hearing Officer in the Environmental Protection and Health Services Division.

Ms. Uyehara is currently the Director of Marketing and Special Programs with Armstrong Produce Ltd. where she continues to be actively involved in agricultural issues ranging from food safety to the future of agriculture in Hawaii. At Armstrong, Ms. Uyehara continues to support Hawaii's agricultural industry by helping to market and promote locally grown produce. She also developed a food safety and HACCP program for Armstrong's company operations which made them the first wholesale produce company to be food safety and HACCP certified.

Ms. Uyehara's extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to ADC as they continue to fulfill their mission to acquire, and manage in partnership with farmers, ranchers, and aquaculture groups, selected high-value lands, water systems, and infrastructure for commercial agricultural use and to direct research into areas that will lead to the development of new crops, markets, and lower production costs

The Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation is pleased to support the nomination Letitia Uyehara to the Agribusiness Development Corporation Board of Directors. We hope that you will give Ms. Uyehara's nomination to this position serious consideration.

**Committee on Agriculture
Hearing
Thursday, April 14, 2011, 2:45 p.m.
Conference Room 229**

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair

Testimony on GM 577 Letitia Uyehara



Dear Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

My testimony is in STRONG SUPPORT of GM 577 Letitia Uyehara for the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation ("ADC") for a term to expire June 30, 2012. My name is Lynn McCrory and I am the President of PAHIO Development, Inc. We are a locally owned and operated time share development company on the island of Kauai.

Letitia will bring to the ADC board years of experience as the Hawaii Deputy Director of Agriculture and from the private sector with Armstrong Produce. ADC was intended to support the agriculture industry by allowing this entity to function closer to the private sector as compared to the public sector. Letitia has the knowledge, strength and determination to work through large and small issues. Her attention to detail is focused and her communication skills are excellent. Letitia has built and continued to strengthen her relationships with the agriculture community across our state. She is balanced in her outlook as to what can be done and how it could be done to result in ADC being 110% supportive of agriculture in the State. In addition, she brings all of this with a passionate positive attitude, and a great sense of humor.

My experience in working with Letitia goes back at least 15 years. It would be hard for me to find a more comprehensive individual who could couple the skills learned in government and private sector to what will be required to be on the ADC Board. The State of Hawaii will benefit for many years to come from the leadership that will be provided by Letitia Uyehara.

I humbly ask for your consideration to SUPPORT GM 577. Mahalo!

Me ke aloha pumehana
With warm aloha,

PAHIO DEVELOPMENT, INC.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lynn P. McCrory".

Lynn P. McCrory
President

C: Letitia Uyehara

Resource, Research and Evaluation
PO Box 61151
Honolulu, Hawaii 96839 USA
808.782.3725
jim_hollyer@me.com

April 5, 2011

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair

RE: Appointment of Letitia Uyehara to the Agribusiness Development Corporation

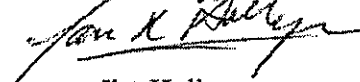
Dear Senators,

It is my pleasure to be able to support Letitia Uyehara's nomination to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation. I work at the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources and have known Tisha for nearly 20 years. Along with two other people, Tisha and I formulated the first "Ag Day" at St. Andrews Priory school. Since that time, we have worked on business development options for farmers and on farm food safety at both the Hawaii Department of Agriculture and at Armstrong Produce.

In my experience, Tisha is someone who thinks, plans and does the hard work of the job. She works collaboratively and meets deadlines. She takes on difficult issues and works to resolve them as quickly as possible. I think the ADC would benefit from the types of skills and thinking that Tisha would bring to the organization's leadership.

If you have additional questions about my support and knowledge of Tisha, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Jim Hollyer

nishihara5 - Randy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 8:56 AM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: gottlieb@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for GM577 on 4/14/2011 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 4/14/2011 2:45:00 PM GM577

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Alan Gottlieb
Organization: Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: gottlieb@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 4/6/2011

Comments:

ALLUVION, INC.
P.O. BOX 820
HALEIWA, HI 96712
808-637-8835
FAX: 808-637-8836

TO: Committee on Agriculture: Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair

RE: **Appointment of Letitia Uyehara to the Agricultural Development Corp.**

Hearing: Thursday, April 14, 2011 2:45 p.m. Conference Room 229 State Capitol

Aloha Chair Nishihara and Vice-Chair Kahale, and members of the Committee:

My name is Susan Matsushima, owner of Alluvion, Inc. on the North Shore of Oahu. We are an agribusiness operation with nursery, full florist services, gift baskets, and plant rental.

I would like to ask for your full support with the appointment of Leticia Uyehara to ADC.

I have worked with Tisha Uyehara for many years during her job as Deputy for the Department of Agriculture and also have continued to work with her during our work with the Commissaries and other agricultural projects.

Tisha has the ability to "get things done!" This is often the reason various groups seek her help in moving projects forward. Her knowledge and passion for Hawaii's agriculture is well respected. She has worked with Jim Hollyer from the University of Hawaii, CTAHR, to get their farmers GAP certified. Armstrong has been a major force in trying to get all farms certified.

During the last year, farmers have talked about EXEMPTIONS since they are SMALL. However, if any farmer wants to be selling into the retail markets: supermarkets, food service, all restaurants, etc., food safety is a mandate. Armstrong has paid for services for Hollyer to help farmers that work with them. However, many have decided not to sell to the retail segment.

During other projects, the RFID project (Radio Frequency Indicator Device) Tisha was instrumental in working with Dr. John Ryan of the HDOA for tracing produce from farms to table. Armstrong worked with the Foodland Stores where portals were installed. These portals had the ability to scan all produce coming into the Foodland stores and log: where, when, and who the product came from. This will be the next steps of traceability.

The Sheratons and Kyo-Ya have partnered with Armstrong to insure that all of their products are safe for their customers and food safety certified. Anything coming through their doors is with the assurance that GAP standards are in place and food is safe.

Please appoint Letitia Uyehara to the ADC. She will help make a difference for Hawaii's agriculture.



Hawaii Agriculture Research Center

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

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

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

GM 577

Confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation

Letitia Uyehara

April 14, 2011

Chairman Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

My name is Stephanie Whalen. I am Executive Director of the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center (HARC). I am testifying today on behalf of the center and our research and support staff.

HARC strongly supports the Confirmation of Letitia Uyehara as a Director of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Tish has served the agriculture community for many years in the public sector as well as the private sector. She has been a member of numerous state and county committees as the agricultural representative. She has a very broad perspective regarding the entire state's agriculture from her earlier term as Deputy to the Chair of the Board of Agriculture. Her private sector experience brings a business perspective that complements her experience in agricultural policy.

HARC is pleased to learn that Tish is once again willing to serve a broader public role in support of the agricultural community.

HARC respectfully urges you to confirm Letitia Uyehara as a Director of the Board of Agribusiness Development Corporation. Her experience will be an asset to this body and its mission to facilitate the transition of agriculture from a large crop driven economy to a more diverse and small scale multi-crop industry supplying Hawaii's citizens with fresh produce and its economy with a diversity of export products.

Thank you for this opportunity to support Letitia Uyehara and agriculture.

Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair
Senator Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Agriculture Committee
Committee on Agriculture

Governor's Message 577

April 14, 2011

Support for the nomination of Letitia Uyehara to the Board of Agribusiness Development Corporation

I write in support of the nomination of Letitia (Tish) Uyehara to the Board of the Agribusiness Development Corporation. I have known and worked with Tish for more than 25 years and know of her family roots in farming and her continuing work in agriculture. She is passionate about expanding agriculture in Hawaii and has experience working both in government and the private sector. She has worked with diverse commodity groups in the industry and has a good grasp of the issues facing agriculture.

I know she will make a good addition to the Board and will be able to bring some unique insights and experiences to the Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer my comments and ask that you appoint Tish to the Board of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Sincerely,



Lloyd M. Haraguchi

TESTIMONY OF JERI KAHANA
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
April 14, 2011
2:45 P.M.

GOVERNOR'S MEMO 577
Relating to Consideration and Confirmation of Letitia Uyehara
To the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation
Conference Room 229

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Governor's Memo No. 577 relating to consideration and confirmation of Letitia Uyehara to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC). I strongly support Ms. Uyehara's appointment to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

I've been an employee with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture for the past 33 years, and have known and worked closely with Ms. Uyehara for many years, as ex-Deputy to the Department of Agriculture and Director of Marketing with Armstrong Produce, Ltd. Ms. Uyehara possesses a keen knowledge of the issues facing Hawaii's agricultural industries. Her appointment will be a tremendous asset to the ADC Board, for she can offer her expertise to help Hawaii agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Governor's Message No. 577
Nomination to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation

Senator Nishihara and Members of the Senate Agriculture Committee:

I write in support of the nomination of Letitia Uyehara. I have known Tish for many years, first when she served with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture and now at Armstrong Produce.

She has been a friend of Hawaii agriculture and a strong proponent of improving the quality and quantity of locally grown produce. She would like to see more replacement of imports so our reliance on products grown on the mainland or other parts of the world is decreased.

We are a family farm that firmly believes in that and has worked to reduce imports of several commodities. We need more growers to make that commitment and work toward that end.

I know that Tish has a can do attitude and will work on this and other issues facing agriculture with commitment and an understanding of the many challenges that we face in agriculture.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larry Jefts".

Larry Jefts

Larry Jefts Farms, LLC
Akea Farms, Inc.
Sugarland Farms, Inc.
Sugarland Distribution, Inc.
Waikele Farms, Inc.
Kelena Farms, Inc.
Puuloa Farms, Inc.
Central Oahu Farmers Association, Inc.



TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

CONFIRMATION OF LETITIA UYEHARA
FOR
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
GM 577

APRIL 2011

DEAR CHAIRPERSON NISHIHARA and Members of the Committee:

VERY STRONG SUPPORT.

My name is Loren Mochida, Director of Agriculture Operations at W. H. Shipman, Limited in Keaau on the Big Island. We are a local kamaaina-family owned management company that is engaged in Agriculture and Commercial/Industrial development and leasing. We currently lease lands to over 125 individually growers at W.H. Shipman, Ltd.

I am in **very strong support** of the confirmation of Ms. Letitia Uyehara for the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation. Along with her strong leadership skills, her organizational development has been exceptionally outstanding.

Ms. Uyehara's diversified experience has provided the agriculture industry copious support as a former Deputy Chairperson for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture and presently as an Officer at Armstrong Produce Company. Ms. Uyehara's outstanding efforts and support in the agriculture industry is highly recognized. It is with personal confidence that Ms. Uyehara will be a dedicated agriculture person on the Board of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide support for the confirmation of Ms. Letitia Uyehara as a Director.

**Mikilua Poultry Farm Inc
1612-A Kilohi Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819**

The Senate
Committee on Agriculture
April 14, 2011

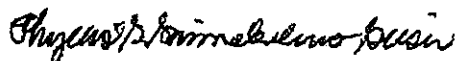
GM 577
Leticia Uyehara

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

I strongly support the nomination of Leticia Uyehara to the Agribusiness Development Corporation. I have known Ms. Uyehara during her many years with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture as the former Information Administrative Officer and former Department Deputy to the Chairperson. Ms. Uyehara has a vast experience as a former state employee with all the issues facing Hawaiian Diversified Agriculture and its interaction with all levels of government. Ms. Uyehara has a great passion and dedication to promote sustainability and food safety through her current position with Armstrong Produce. She will serve the State of Hawaii and Hawaiian Diversified Agriculture with the highest integrity.

I respectfully ask for your approval of Leticia Uyehara nominee to the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Sincerely,



Phyllis S. Shimabukuro-Geiser
President

The Twenty-Sixth Legislature
Regular Session of 2011

THE SENATE
Committee on Agriculture
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 229
Thursday, April 14, 2011; 2:45 p.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON G.M. 577
LETITIA UYEHARA
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

The ILWU Local 142 supports the confirmation of Letitia Uyehara to the Board of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Ms. Uyehara is eminently qualified to serve on the Agribusiness Development Corporation, having previously served as Deputy to the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture and currently working as marketing director for Armstrong Produce. She also has experience with a family farm. Agriculture, it would seem, is an important part of her life.

The Agribusiness Development Corporation was established in 1994 to facilitate and provide direction for Hawaii's transition from the dominance of sugar and pineapple to diversification of crops and to ensure optimum use of agricultural lands and promote success in diversified agriculture. Ms. Uyehara understands the industry, understands the need for Hawaii to become more self-sufficient by producing more of its own food, and understands the role that agriculture can play in providing jobs and a quality environment.

The ILWU urges the confirmation of Letitia Uyehara for the Agribusiness Development Corporation. Thank you for considering our testimony.

JASON D. MONIZ, D.V.M.

PO BOX 428

PAAUILO, HI 96776

Chairman Senator Nishihara and members of the Committee on Agriculture, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the nominations of Scott Enright, Alan Takemoto and Letitia Uyehara, as directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation. The Governor has selected three very qualified individuals to serve on this important agriculture board. I have worked with all three and hold each in very high regard.

I have worked as a veterinary medical office and program manager with the Hawaii State Department of Agriculture (HDOA) for 28 years and worked in support of and admired Tisha Uyehara's leadership and initiatives while she served as the Department's deputy chairperson.

As a member of the Hawaii Farm Bureau for many years I greatly appreciated Alan Takemoto's leadership and tireless efforts to support the farmers and ranchers in Hawaii.

I'm currently serving along with Scott Enright on the County of Hawaii's Hamakua Community Development Plan steering committee where we both focus on the Agriculture and Natural Resources strategy areas. I have quickly come to appreciate the knowledge, communication and conflict avoidance skills Scott demonstrates at the many public and strategy area meetings we have attended.

Again these are three highly qualified individuals and I strongly support their nominations to the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

