

# **GM 826**

## Testimony



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

TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2012  
2:45 P.M.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 826

Chairperson Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on Governor's Message No. 826, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture, Ms. Lynn DeCoite. I would like to express my strong support for Ms. DeCoite's nomination.

Ms. DeCoite, as a resident of Moloka'i, would be filling in the statutorily required position for the Board of Agriculture from the county of Maui. Ms. DeCoite has extensive experience in agriculture. A third generation sweet potato farmer, Ms. DeCoite and her husband currently own and manage L&R Farm Ent LLC, overseeing the daily operations of planting, harvesting, irrigating, and marketing of produce. Additionally, as owners of V-8 Ranch, they handle breeding, branding and the overall maintenance and management of their ranch. Her experience runs the entire gamut of agricultural production from farm and ranch including the business aspects of shipping, marketing, and sales, making her keenly aware of the difficulties facing farmers today.

Furthermore, Ms. DeCoite has served as a member of the Moloka'i Irrigation System Water Users Advisory Board (MISWUAB), an opportunity that has given her policy experience with complex water issues facing the agricultural industry on Moloka'i.



As a member of the MISWUAB she has demonstrated strong leadership skills and has been a positive force in improving irrigation services to agribusinesses on Moloka'i.

I am confident that Ms. DeCoite will bring great insight and perspective as a member of the Hawai'i Board of Agriculture and I look forward to working with her.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer my support.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF HAWAII



ALBERT "ALAPAKI" NAHALE-A  
CHARMAN  
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

MICHELLE KA UHANE  
DEPUTY TO THE CHARMAN

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

P.O. BOX 1879  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

TESTIMONY OF ALAPAKI NAHALE-A, CHAIRMAN  
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION  
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE IN SUPPORT OF

**GM 826**

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of  
Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, **LYNN DECOITE**, for a term to expire  
6-30-2016.

April 12, 2012

Chair Nishihara, Vice-Chair Kahele, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands strongly supports Governor Abercrombie's nomination of Ms. Lynn DeCoite to serve on the Board of Agriculture.

Ms. DeCoite is a Hawaiian homestead farmer and a community leader. Her knowledge of farming comes from the legendary Mokuau sweet potato farmers of Molokai and she current owns and manages L&R Farms. In addition to her farming activities, she is also the owner and ranch handler of the V-8 Ranch in Hoolehua. Ms. DeCoite is also the president of the Molokai Homestead Farmers Alliance, and launched the annual Molokai Agricultural Country Fair.

Ms. DeCoite's knowledge of farming and the agricultural community, both on Hawaiian Home Lands and beyond, will be an asset to the Board of Agriculture. We respectfully request your favorable consideration of this nomination.



**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](mailto:info@hfbf.org)  
[www.hfbf.org](http://www.hfbf.org)

April 12, 2012

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON **GM 826**

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture, Gubernatorial  
Nominee, LYNN DECOITE

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kahele, and Committee Members:

I am Dean Okimoto, President for the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF). Organized since 1948, the HFBF is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interest of our diverse agricultural community.

HFBF is strong support of the confirmation of Lynn DeCoite to the Hawaii Board of Agriculture.

Ms. DeCoite has an extensive background and understanding of Hawaii's diverse agricultural industry and would be an asset to the State of Hawaii if appointed to Hawaii Board of Agriculture.

As the owner of L& R Farm, Ms. DeCoite's firsthand experience and familiarity with local farming practices will help her provide valuable input to the efforts of the Hawaii Board of Agriculture. Ms. DeCoite's knowledge and experience would be an asset to the State of Hawaii if appointed.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation is pleased to support the nomination of Lynn DeCoite to the Hawaii Board of Agriculture.



MOLOKAI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

P.O. Box 515  
Kaunakakai, HI 96748

T 808 553 4482

info@molokaichamber.org

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**HAWAII STATE SENATE  
HEARING BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

Thursday, April 12, 2012- 2:45 p.m. - Conference Room 229 - State Capitol  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair  
Senator Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair

**SUBJECT: Testimony in support of Lynn Decoite**

*Agenda Item - GM 826*

*Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, LYNN DECOITE, for a term to expire 6-30-2016.*

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kahele and distinguished members of the committee,

It is my sincere pleasure to submit testimony in support, for the confirmation of Lynn Decoite to the Board of Agriculture.

Lynn comes from a family of farmers who have been involved in agricultural production for many years on Molokai. Her professional career is truly the model of agricultural sustainability and coexistence. She represents partnerships between all sectors of agriculture: Homestead Farmer, Bio-Tech, Conventional and Organic.

As a practical farmer, Lynn knows how to get things done. Her pragmatic approach to problem solving is complimented by her natural leadership abilities. She is collaborative by nature and knows how to bring people together.

Personally, I have known Lynn for several years and consider her a trusted friend.

Lynn will undoubtedly be a tremendous asset, not only to the Department of Agriculture, but to her community and the greater State of Hawaii.

I humbly recommend Lynn Decoite without hesitation for confirmation to the aforementioned position.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Robert Stephenson, President & CEO



*An Affiliate of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation and the American Farm Bureau Federation*

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair

Senator Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair

AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Thursday, April 12, 2012

TIME: 2:45 PM

PLACE: Conference Room 229

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

**GM 826** Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, LYNN DECOITE, for a term to expire 6-30-2016.

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT of Lynn DeCoite**

**Appointment to State Board of Agriculture, Maui County seat**

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kahele, and Respected Committee Members,

The Molokai Farm Bureau is proud to submit testimony on behalf of Lynn DeCoite, regarding her appointment to the State Board of Agriculture's Maui County seat.

Coming from a successful lineage of Hawaiian Homestead sweet potato farmers, Ms. DeCoite and her family ties run deep in Molokai's soil. Because of this rooted connection, one which led her and her husband to take over the family farm, she has been a life long advocate for agriculture and its many diverse issues.

Having been involved in farming her entire life, Lynn carries a realistic perspective of our historical past, what it takes to make it in today's Hawaii agriculture, and the demands for the future success of the industry. These are essential viewpoints needed when establishing broad operating policies that are meant to create a beneficial environment for Ag – viewpoints that effectively question simply enduring versus adapting and evolving, in our economically challenged industry. It is also imperative when looking to build upon the many developing technologies agriculture faces on so many levels, in order for Hawaii farmers to best compete in the local, state, national, and global markets.

Lynn's ability to envision beyond what's obvious, willingness to learn, and ability to find solutions demonstrates her depth of commitment and level of understanding regarding Hawaii's agricultural issues. Her dedication to responsible, productive use of resources for all sectors of Ag, at the cost of none, is also impressive and merits mentioning.

We believe Lynn will be an exemplary member, and asset to the Board of Agriculture.

The Molokai Farm Bureau would also like to recognize Governor Abercrombie and extend our appreciation for his appointment of Lynn DeCoite.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the participating members of the Molokai Farm Bureau, we thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dawn Bicoy  
Vice President



## **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](mailto:HCattlemens@hawaii.rr.com)

### SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

## **GM 826**

**Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the  
Board of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, LYNN DECOITE  
for a term to expire 6-30-2016.**

**April 12, 2012 2:45 pm, Room 229**

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kahele and Members of the Committee:

My name is Alan Gottlieb, and I am a rancher and the Government Affairs Chair for 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 826 nominating LYNN DECOITE to the Board of Agriculture.

Lynn DeCoite has been involved in Ranching and Farming on Molokai for years. She is active in agricultural groups and is well respected in the ag community.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify in strong support of GM 826 nominating LYNN DECOITE to the Board of Agriculture



March 28, 2012

TO: Senator Clarence Nishihara  
Committee on Agriculture

FROM: Alton S. Arakaki, County Extension Agent

Hearing Date: Thursday, April 12, 2012

Position: In support for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, LYNN DECOITE, for a term to expire 6-30-2016.

I have served as the Extension Agent for the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, Cooperative Extension Service on Moloka'i for the past 30 years. My primary function is to conduct educational activities for farmers and agricultural community in fruits and vegetable production. In my tenure I've had the privilege of watching and working with Lynn and her husband Russell DeCoite develop their successful sweet potato farm since inception.

I am in support of GM 826 submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, LYNN DECOITE, for a term to expire 6-30-2016.

Lynn P. DeCoite comes from a long line of Mokuau family that has successfully farmed their Hawaiian Homestead agriculture lease land in Hoolehua, Moloka'i. The Mokuau farms have provided consumers in the State with sweet potato for many years. During my tenure on Moloka'i, I've had the privilege of serving as the Extension Agent for 3 generations of Mokuau sweet potato farm families. They were grand parents, Heine and Becky Mokuau; parents George and Linda; and now Lynn and Russell DeCoite. Each of the generation was full-time farmers that depended solely on their ability to produce sweet potato successfully for their family's economic security and social stability. I was introduced to Lynn when she was barely a teenager picking up sweet potatoes in buckets with the workers they hired and driving a large farm tractor with a load of sweet potato on a trailer to their washing and packing shed. Lynn P. DeCoite is one of the few young third generation farmers in the State that have chosen the career path of their parents and grandparents. Today Lynn has her own farming business that produces sweet potato on over 100 acres of Hawaiian Homestead land. In addition she has established a "value-added" sweet potato chipping business that utilizes sweet potato from their farm.

Lynn DeCoite will bring to the Board of Agriculture a wealth of agriculture knowledge and experience that spans 3 generations of full-time farm families on Moloka'i. She will bring a unique understanding of her Hawaiian heritage and culture that is closely tied to the aina and her experience in intertwining her cultural values with competitive nature to our free market environment. Today her farm is one of the largest crop production Hawaiian Homestead farms. As such she will bring a clear understanding of the importance of the Board of Agriculture and the role it plays towards sustaining farms and the agriculture economy in the State. She will bring skills and management capacity that she acquired from farming successes of her past generations and from developing her own successful farm business. She will also bring experience from serving on other agricultural advisory committees including the State Department of Agriculture, Moloka'i Irrigation System Advisory Committee. Lynn will be a valuable asset to the Board of Agriculture and will represent the best interest of the agriculture communities in the State.

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

**SENATOR CLARENCE K. NISHIHARA, CHAIR  
SENATOR GILBERT KAHELE, VICE CHAIR**

**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 826: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, LYNN DECOITE, for a term to expire 6-30-2016**

**Testimony in Support**

**By Roy Catalani, Matthew Humphrey and Dean Kapoi  
Vice Presidents, Young Brothers, Limited  
April 12, 2012, 2:45 pm, Conference Room 229**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Governor's Message 826 concerning Governor Abercrombie's nomination of **LYNN DECOITE** to the **Board of Agriculture** of the State of Hawaii ("**Board**"). **We submit this testimony in support of Ms. DeCoite's nomination.**

We have worked with Ms. Decoite over the course of several years to address transportation needs of the Moloka'i farming community as well as the Moloka'i community generally. We have very much appreciated her willingness to work collaboratively and discuss openly the needs of transportation customers as well as the challenges facing transportation providers. Because of her experience in the agricultural industry and her knowledge and understanding of those in her community, we very much value her input. We believe this background will also make her a valued and productive member of the Board.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that you recommend approval of her nomination to the Board.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on Governor's Message 826.

MOLOKAI ISLAND FOUNDATION  
PO BOX 1659  
KAUNAKAKAI, HI 96748

March 28, 2012

To Whom It May Concern

RE: Letter of Support for Lynn DeCoite

I was asked to write a letter of support for Lynn DeCoite, I am happy to do so.

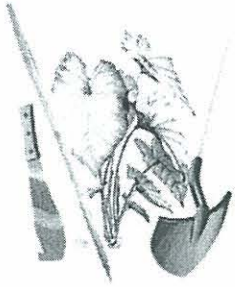
I have known Lynn, as a small business owner of L&R Farm ENT LLC and as a community leader since 1997. During this period of time, I have come to know her as a person who is an avid supporter of programs that facilitates economic recovery for our island. As a small business owner, Lynn understands first hand on running a business, its challenges and key components to building a successful business. She has expanded her business from farming sweet potato crops in 1997 to augmenting the sweet potato crop to a value added product, Molokai sweet potato chips.

Given today's state of economics, L&R Farm is not only thriving but supplying much needed food crop to support Hawaii's sustainability. Farmers such as Lynn DeCoite need to be applaud and recognized for their efforts and contributions to Hawaii's agriculture industry.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (808)553-3773 or email [barbara.haliniak@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:barbara.haliniak@hawaiiantel.net).

Sincerely,

Barbara Haliniak  
President



# Keaukaha Panaewa Farmers Association

P. O. Box 6844  
HILO, HI 96720-8935  
TEL/FAX: 808-959-5026  
EMAIL: [KPFA@HAWAII.RR.COM](mailto:KPFA@HAWAII.RR.COM)

WEBSITE:  
[HTTP://KEAUKAHAPANAEWAFARMERSASSN.SH](http://KEAUKAHAPANAEWAFARMERSASSN.SH)  
[UTTERFLY.COM/](http://UTTERFLY.COM/)

April 6, 2014

Sent by email:

OFFICERS  
2011-2012

*President*  
Mele U. Spencer

*Vice-President*  
Ian Lee Loy

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Kenneth Lee  
Milnor Lum  
Patrick Kahawaiolaa  
Jerryl Mauhili  
Luahiwa Namahoe  
Howard Pea  
Eric Reff  
Robert Yamada II

## Testimony to the Senate Committee on Agriculture Thursday, April 12, 2012; 2:45 p.m. Conference Room 229

**RE: GM 826 RELATING TO CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF  
AGRICULTURE, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, LYNN DECOITE,  
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2016**

**Chair Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair Gilbert Kahele and Members of the Committee:**

My name is Mele U. Spencer and I am the President of the Keaukaha Pana'ewa Farmers Association, comprising Hawaiian homesteaders on 285 agricultural lots on 1,615 acres of land in Hilo, Hawaii.

I appreciate the efforts being made by the Senate to consider and confirm Lynn DeCoite to this very important Board of Agriculture.

I have known Lynn for several years and discussed issues affecting the state of agriculture initiatives necessary to promote agriculture on both on Hawaiian Home Lands and the State of Hawaii. Lynn has an excellent working knowledge of the issues and challenges in agriculture and is firmly committed to improving and promoting the industry. We firmly support her appointment to the Board of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. If you have any questions, please contact me at (808) 959-5026 or [muspencer@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:muspencer@hawaii.rr.com).

Sincerely,

MELE U. SPENCER  
President

*"To support, motivate and educate Keaukaha Pana'ewa agricultural lessees to establish a viable, sustainable farm community; preserve Hawaiian culture; achieve self sufficiency; and strengthen pono management and respect for the 'aina."*

Ahupua'a o Moloka'i  
P.O. Box 159  
Ho'olehua, HI 96729  
Cell: 808-658-0444

March 28, 2012

Committee on Agriculture  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair  
Senator Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Senator Nishihara and Senator Kahele:

The Ahupua'a o Moloka'i is a unified association of seven Moloka'i homestead associations. On March 20, 2012 our executive board unanimously passed a motion to support LYNN DECOITE for the Board of Agriculture, gubernatorial nominee (GM826).

Lynn DeCoite is an active leader in our homestead community and Moloka'i. Currently Lynn is a member of the Moloka'i Irrigation System Water Users Advisory Board (MISWUAB), and in 2006 she became a commission member of the Moloka'i Planning Commission. Lynn has organized and participated in several agriculture and community events, organizational boards, workshops, and businesses on Moloka'i and in the State of Hawaii.

Lynn DeCoite is more than qualified to represent the State of Hawaii, Board of Agriculture. She is a third generation homestead farmer of sweet potatoes and has created many successful business ventures in Hawaii's agriculture market place. Agriculture is what Lynn DeCoite is all about...she is very knowledgeable in the field of production. Lynn DeCoite is an asset; she will bring to the Board of Agriculture young, fresh and energetic agricultural initiatives.

The members of the Ahupua'a o Moloka'i humbly request for your selection of Lynn DeCoite as a member of the State of Hawaii, Board of Agriculture.

Mahalo,



Kammy Purdy  
President

c: Ho'olehua Homestead Association, President Ochie Bush  
Kalamaula Mauka Homestead Association, President Renee Montizor  
Kapa'kea Homestead Association, President Leilani Wallace  
OneAii/Kamiloloa Homestead Association, President Vivian Ainoa  
Moloka'i Homestead Livestock Association, President Ron Davis  
Ho'olehua Homestead Agriculture Association, President Harry Purdy  
Moloka'i Homestead Farmers Alliance, President Lynn DeCoite

April 10, 2012

Aloha Senator/Chair Clarence K. Nishihara

This letter is written testimony on behalf of GM826 in support of Lynn Decoite.

I would like to inform you about an outstanding committee leader and a recognized agricultural contributor for farmers and homesteaders.

I highly recommend Lynn Decoite for her discipline in research and promotion of all agricultural issues, on Molokai.

We are fortunate to have Lynn, she is so inspiring to Hawaiians and Non Hawaiians, a role model to all of the agricultural community, she has served on many non-profit organizations, giving of her time freely, to inspire others in becoming a part of the growing movement of Ag on Molokai.

During the last (8) eight years Lynn has displayed her the hard work, dedication, motivation, culture, self reliance, self independence, creation/development of programs/projects, relationship skills, understanding the needs of our rural island, responsibility, and respect for others.

Lynn's role has become a part of the islands well being and a pathway of hope to many of the famers and homesteaders, she has a unique way of communication, and has reached a level of trust, and respect from the Molokai community.

I will continue to provide support to Lynn a rare asset for our community, as she continues to enrich Molokai

Malama Pono, Rosie F Davis

GM #826

Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture

**Lynn DeCoite**

Senate Committee on Agriculture

Thursday April 12, 2012

CR 229 2:45 PM

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Aloha Chair Nishihara and Vice Chair Kahele. My name is Jobie Masagatani and I am submitting this testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** to confirm Lynn DeCoite's nomination to the Board of Agriculture.

As a third-generation successful commercial sweet potato farmer from Hoolehua, Molokai, Lynn continues to personify the model of what is possible on the Home Lands. Her success is due entirely to her determination and commitment to continue a way of life that few can sustain even under the best of circumstances. Facing high transportation costs, limited and costly water supply, challenging financing issues and increasing regulations on food production, Lynn continues to persevere and succeed as a commercial farmer, even expanding into value added items like chips.

I met Lynn while serving as the Deputy to the Chairman at the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands during Governor Cayetano's first and second terms. To this day, I continue to admire her insight, honesty, tenacity and integrity. Her positive, straight-forward manner is always welcome and refreshing. Very few individuals possess her keen understanding of the unique challenges facing farmers on the Home Lands, an understanding based on her first-hand experience. She undoubtedly "knows her stuff".

She is committed to her island community and the farming industry, and continues to give tirelessly of herself to both. She is innovative in her thinking, and willing to explore new ideas, yet remains practical in her approach staying grounded and real. She is an outstanding nominee to the Board of Agriculture, and I support her nomination without any reservation.

I strongly encourage the Committee to vote yes on confirmation.

**nishihara1 - Danille**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 11, 2012 11:24 AM  
**To:** AGL Testimony  
**Cc:** warrenmcfb@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM826 on 4/12/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 4/12/2012 2:45:00 PM GM826

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Warren Watanabe  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [warrenmcfb@hotmail.com](mailto:warrenmcfb@hotmail.com)  
Submitted on: 4/11/2012

**Comments:**

Ms. DeCoite's experience as a neighbor island farmer gives her first hand knowledge of the issues faced by those farming far from population centers and remote areas. These issues need to be addressed to increase Hawaii's self sufficiency. I strongly support Ms. DeCoite's nomination to the BoAg



## nishihara1 - Danille

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 11, 2012 11:22 AM  
**To:** AGL Testimony  
**Cc:** mnakahata@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM826 on 4/12/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 4/12/2012 2:45:00 PM GM826

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Mae Nakahata  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [mnakahata@gmail.com](mailto:mnakahata@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 4/11/2012

### Comments:

Lynn will bring a valuable hands on perspective to the Board. Her farm experience provides a solid foundation for good decisionmaking.

**nishihara1 - Danille**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 10, 2012 9:11 PM  
**To:** AGL Testimony  
**Cc:** kui03@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM826 on 4/12/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 4/12/2012 2:45:00 PM GM826

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Faith Emmanuel  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [kui03@yahoo.com](mailto:kui03@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 4/10/2012

Comments:

**nishihara1 - Danille**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 10, 2012 9:11 PM  
**To:** AGL Testimony  
**Cc:** kui03@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM826 on 4/12/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 4/12/2012 2:45:00 PM GM826

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Keola Tuipulotu  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [kui03@yahoo.com](mailto:kui03@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 4/10/2012

Comments:

April 10, 2012

Aloha Senator/Chair Clarence K. Nishihara

This letter is written testimony on behalf of GM826 in support of Lynn Decoite for the Board of Agriculture.

I have known Lynn both professionally and personally for the past 14 years. I am proud that this relationship has covered a wide range of interests but is solidly grounded in agriculture. We started bartering sweet potatoes (Lynn) for computer and accounting lessons (me). Now that's got to hit home for ag people, knowing the value of your product.

It is my great pleasure to support Lynn in her endeavor to expand her commitment to agriculture, not only for Moloka'i but for Hawaii. Her attributes far exceed her youth and her ability to discern situations fairly reflect someone twice her age. Her list of contributions to Moloka'i and our agriculture community and Hawaii far exceed expectations of her peers and profoundly make Moloka'i proud that she has her roots here.

I can't even recite all the boards Lynn has served on but the range (agriculture to youth, and business to schools) is extensive giving her the ability and leadership skills to communicate effectively on all levels. When she commits, she's there. She is and will always be an asset to any board she is asked to serve on.

Please give her the opportunity to enlighten the Board of Agriculture.

Mahalo,

Viola K. Mundrick-Wichman  
Homestead Farmer

**nishihara1 - Danille**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 11:35 AM  
**To:** AGL Testimony  
**Cc:** olindaaiwohi@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM826 on 4/12/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 4/12/2012 2:45:00 PM GM826

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Olinda Aiwohi  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [olindaaiwohi@yahoo.com](mailto:olindaaiwohi@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 3/27/2012

Comments:

**nishihara1 - Danille**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 6:54 AM  
**To:** AGL Testimony  
**Cc:** maria@coffeesofhawaii.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM826 on 4/12/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 4/12/2012 2:45:00 PM GM826

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Maria Holmes  
Organization: Coffees of Hawaii, LLC  
E-mail: [maria@coffeesofhawaii.com](mailto:maria@coffeesofhawaii.com)  
Submitted on: 3/28/2012

**Comments:**

We support the appointment of Lynn DeCoite from L&R Farms to the Board of Agriculture. She will serve the island of Molokai fairly as well as the rest of the State.

**nishihara1 - Danille**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 4:07 PM  
**To:** AGL Testimony  
**Cc:** ray.foster@monsanto.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM826 on 4/12/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 4/12/2012 2:45:00 PM GM826

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Raymond Foster  
Organization: Monsanto Molokai  
E-mail: [ray.foster@monsanto.com](mailto:ray.foster@monsanto.com)  
Submitted on: 3/28/2012

**Comments:**

I offer my strong support for Lynn Decoite to be confirmed as a member of the HI Board of Agriculture. She and her family are long time successful Molokai farmers. That alone is a tremendous accomplishment in a very difficult business environment. Her knowledge, experience and commitment to the well being of our industry is unquestioned. Please confirm Lynn's appointment to the Board. Respectfully submitted, Ray Foster

## nishihara1 - Danille

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 5:37 PM  
**To:** AGL Testimony  
**Cc:** jrobello@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM826 on 4/12/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 4/12/2012 2:45:00 PM GM826

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: James Robello  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [jrobello@gmail.com](mailto:jrobello@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 3/28/2012

**Comments:**

Dear Chairman Nishihara,

I strongly support Lynn DeCoite's nomination to the Hawaii State Board of Agriculture. I have known Lynn for many years. I believe her experience as an owner and operator of a sweet potato farm and cattle ranch makes her very qualified to serve on the Board.

Lynn has in depth knowledge of the issues concerning agriculture through her experience as a farmer and rancher and her service on community boards such as the Molokai Irrigation System and the Molokai Agricultural Fair boards. She also has the ability to deal with a variety of different people and issues in a fair and equitable manner.

As stated above, I strongly support Lynn's nomination to the Board of Agriculture.

Mahalo.



## nishihara1 - Danille

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 10:30 AM  
**To:** AGL Testimony  
**Cc:** boswellj@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM826 on 4/12/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 4/12/2012 2:45:00 PM GM826

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: James A. Boswell  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [boswellj@hawaii.edu](mailto:boswellj@hawaii.edu)  
Submitted on: 3/30/2012

### Comments:

I have known Lynn Decoite for 26 years and have more closely worked with her for the past four years serving on the Molokai Irrigation Systems Advisory Board; and associating with her in the Molokai Homestead Alliance organization. I think she is an outstanding individual who strives for the betterment of the agriculture community here on Molokai. Through her guidance the Molokai Agriculture Fair was organized and carried out the past two years offering exposure to local farmers who sold their produce, advertised equipment rentals, and the like- the fair was a tremendous success. Due to a current drought situation on Molokai, all farmers are facing potential cutbacks in their planting schedules because of the drought (potential loss of job for those employed; and loss of revenue to the companies). As a farmer, along side her husband, she sees the importance of water and is willing to set the example for others, not only by talking, but by taking the necessary steps to conserve. She is an awesome individual and I wholeheartedly support Lynn DeCoite in her desire to sit on this committee and hope you will lend your support as well.

**nishihara1 - Danille**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, April 02, 2012 12:55 PM  
**To:** AGL Testimony  
**Cc:** pennysfh@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM826 on 4/12/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 4/12/2012 2:45:00 PM GM826

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Penny Levin  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [pennysfh@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:pennysfh@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 4/2/2012

Comments:

**nishihara1 - Danille**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 05, 2012 7:38 PM  
**To:** AGL Testimony  
**Cc:** dkapua@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM826 on 4/12/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 4/12/2012 2:45:00 PM GM826

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Kapua Keliikoa-Kamai  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [dkapua@gmail.com](mailto:dkapua@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 4/5/2012

Comments:  
TESTIMONY SUPPORTING THE CONFIRMATION OF LYNN DECOITE TO THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

DATE: Thursday, April 12, 2012  
TIME: 2:45 PM  
PLACE: Conference Room 229

Aloha Senate Agriculture Committee Chair Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair Gilbert Kahele and Committee Members

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in support of Lynn "Sweet Potato" DeCoite and her CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE. As a member of the Molokai Farmer's Alliance, Lynn is well aware of agricultural challenges and opportunities. As a business owner of a farm and ranch, she is experienced in decision making that ensures sustainability. As a community member, she provides education and awareness to encourage and expand agricultural growth.

Lynn will serve the people of Hawaii well in this new capacity. Again, I encourage you to CONSENT AND CONFIRM LYNN DECOITE TO THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

Me ka ha'aha'a,  
Kapua Keliikoa-Kamai