

GM 827

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. 827

Chairperson Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on Governor's Message No. 827, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture, Mr. Glenn Hong. I would like to express my strong support for Mr. Hong's nomination.

Transportation of agricultural commodities is an essential component for the success of any agricultural venture, whether it is for imports into the islands, exports to mainland and foreign markets, or intra-island transport of goods. Without an affordable means for transportation, markets and economic opportunities for the agricultural industry are severely limited. Mr. Hong's decades of experience with Hawaiian Tug & Barge Corp. and Young Brothers, Limited will provide key insight and perspective on the issue of transportation of agricultural commodities. By integrating Mr. Hong into the Board of Agriculture, the Board will gain a fuller view of all the factors and challenges our local farmers are facing.

In addition, Mr. Hong's strong business background and experience will bring to the Board a diverse viewpoint on the issues that challenge agribusiness in Hawai'i. His experience and service on other boards and commissions will also be an asset to the Board of Agriculture.



I am confident that Mr. Hong will bring a unique and vital perspective to the Board of Agriculture, and I look forward to working with him.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer my support.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
www.hawaii.gov/labor

April 12, 2012

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
The Honorable Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture

Nominee, Glenn Hong (GM 827)
As a Member of the Board of Agriculture

Thursday, April 12, 2012
2:45 p.m., Rm 229, State Capitol

Testimony of Dwight Takamine, Director,
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

The department strongly supports the confirmation of Glenn Hong to the Board of Agriculture. The Board of Agriculture provides policy direction for the Department of Agriculture, which is dedicated to the preservation and productive use of agricultural resources in the State of Hawaii.

Mr. Hong has a wealth of experience and knowledge of the state through both his work experience and activities in the community. Since 1992, Mr. Hong has guided Young Brothers and Hawaiian Tug & Barge, where he has endeavored to contribute to economic development and sustainability in Hawaii. Mr. Hong has focused on improving our state's maritime transportation infrastructure while strategically guiding his company, including through innovative energy saving initiatives as part of his effort to ensure the viability of his company by adroitly balancing short-term and long-term investments.

Mr. Hong's professional, community and volunteer experience is rich and diverse. Mr. Hong brings the professional and life experiences that will enable him to serve the Board and the public interest well in the role of a Board member.

I urge you to confirm Glenn Hong as a member to the Board of Agriculture, where he will be a valuable asset to the Board and hence to the entire state.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Mr. Hong.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

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

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 827: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, GLENN HONG, 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 827 concerning Governor Abercrombie's nomination of **Glenn Hong** to the **Board of Agriculture** of the State of Hawaii ("**Board**"). **We submit this testimony in support of Mr. Hong's nomination.**

Mr. Hong has for many years served in executive management and professional positions. Currently he is the President of Young Brothers, Limited and Moana Pa'akai, Inc., *dba* Hawaiian Tug and Barge, and has held this position since 1992. His previous positions include service as Director of Internal Auditing for Hawaiian Telephone Co. and then GTE Service Corporation, Director of Financial Analysis for GTE Service Corporation, Controller, Hawaiian Electric Industries, Inc. and Vice President of Financial and Governmental Affairs for Young Brothers and Hawaiian Tug and Barge. He is a graduate of the University of Southern California (Bachelor of Science, Accounting) and a Certified Public Accountant (non-current).

Mr. Hong is on the boards of Hawai'i Harbors Users Group and The Foundation for the Asia Pacific Center for Strategic Studies as well as the U.H. Shidler College of Business Advisory Board. He previously served multiple terms as the chairperson of the Hawaii Employers Council Board of Governors.

With his professional and executive background in finance, accounting, transportation logistics and policies, strategic planning and resource allocation, Mr. Hong has the ability to thoroughly analyze complex agricultural issues, the experience to develop pragmatic solutions and actions and the leadership capabilities to get things done. As President of Young Brothers, Mr. Hong has worked directly and collaboratively with farm bureaus and associations as well as individual farmers. He has stated his firmly held belief in the importance to our State of a robust agricultural industry and backed this up with true commitment and specific actions. Under his leadership, Young Brothers has developed and increased the island agricultural product discount to support the transport of local farm products (currently a discount of 30 to 35 percent on YB's freight rates). He has further given his management team both direction and flexibility in supporting agricultural needs, whether it is working with farmers who want to consolidate and containerize at the farm to maintain food quality, supporting invasive species control measures or finding resources to support agricultural causes under tight economic conditions.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on Governor's Message 827.



Meadow Gold Dairies



GM 827, Glenn Hong
Gubernatorial Nominee
Board of Agriculture
Senate AGL Hearing
Thursday, April 12, 2012
2:45 pm, Room 229

Written Testimony By: Glenn Muranaka
Position: Support

Chair Nishihara and Members of the Senate AGL Committee:

My name is Glenn Muranaka, President and General Manager of Meadow Gold Dairies. Our company has been in Hawaii since 1897—115 years, providing Hawaii consumers with a variety of milk products and juices. Meadow Gold's long history has not come without effort. We continually adapt to our customers' and consumers' ever-changing needs, and we constantly evolve along with our industry, our community and our market. Over the years, this has required that we struggle, tighten our belts, innovate and work extremely hard, making us a better company in the process. The foundation of this work rests with the 350 employees that are committed to providing superior quality products.

As a processor with distribution business between islands, Meadow Gold has worked with Glenn Hong and his associates at Hawaiian Tug & Barge Corp. and Young Brothers Limited, who provide harbor assist, common carrier inter-island freight transportation, and tug and barge charter services throughout the State. Since transportation and distribution of Hawaii's agricultural products is a vital part of a thriving agricultural system, we believe that Mr. Hong's expertise in this area is an asset to the Board of Agriculture.

His experience as an auditor with Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co, as well as with Hawaiian Telephone Company, and controller for Hawaiian Electric Company provides a strong fiduciary platform to guide Board of Agriculture discussions and decision making.

Hawaii's Board of Agriculture will be made stronger with the confirmation of Glenn Hong. Your consideration of his nomination is appreciated.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. If you have any questions, please contact me at 944-5911.



MOLOKAI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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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 Glenn Hong

Agenda Item - GM 827

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, GLENN HONG, 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 Glenn Hong to the Board of Agriculture.

In his position as CEO of Young Brothers, Ltd., Glenn understands the logistical challenges of interisland shipping here in Hawaii and the unique challenges faced by our agriculture community. He has shown his commitment and dedication to our local agricultural producers by offering a discounted rate structure to farmers shipping goods between the islands that has allowed them to maintain a competitive advantage in the marketplace.

As we move further toward Hawaii's agricultural sustainability, it is crucial to have a person like Glenn, who is an expert at shipping and logistics, as an active participant in shaping agricultural policy to ensure the greatest benefit to all of our residents and visitors.

Glenn will undoubtedly be a tremendous asset, not only to the Department of Agriculture, but to our statewide network of farmers and the entire State of Hawaii.

I humbly recommend Glenn Hong without hesitation for confirmation to the aforementioned position.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Robert Stephenson, President & CEO



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

2343 Rose Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
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April 12, 2012

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON GM 827

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture, Gubernatorial
Nominee, GLENN HONG

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 Glenn Hong to the Hawaii Board of Agriculture.

As the Government Affairs Director, Vice-President, and President of Hawaiian Tug & Barge Corp. and Young Brothers, Mr. Hong has gained an understanding of Hawaii's agricultural industry. Mr. Hong also has a wide-ranging experience in business, having worked as both a CPA and Controller.

Mr. Hong is respected for his impressive credentials as a community leader, having served on numerous boards and councils. Mr. Hong's knowledge and experience would be an asset to the State of Hawaii if appointed to the Hawaii Board of Agriculture.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation is pleased to support the nomination of Glenn Hong to the Hawaii Board of Agriculture.



Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition

SAFE KIDS Hawaii

**TESTIMONY OF SUSAN LAFOUNTAINE
CO-CHAIR KEIKI INJURY PREVENTION COALITION
DIRECTOR, REHABILITATION SERVICES
KAPI'OLANI MEDICAL CENTER FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN**

APRIL 10, 2012

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 827

Chairperson Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Governor's Message No. 827, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture, Mr. Glenn Hong. I emphatically support Mr. Hong's nomination.

As CEO of Hawaiian Tug and Barge Corporation and Young Brothers, Limited, Mr. Hong is uniquely positioned to offer the Board of Agriculture key insight into the logistical challenges that local farmers face with interisland transportation of agricultural commodities. While his professional and business acumen will undoubtedly add breath and depth to the Board; of equal importance is his integrity and community involvement. The Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition (KIPC) received funding from National Safe Kids to purchase a van to conduct child passenger safety checks in the community. The usage of the Safe Kids van which was stocked with car seats and equipment was made available to the Neighbor Islands through free transportation on Young Brothers barges. These arrangements by Mr. Hong were also provided to Neighbor Island families who needed to transport wheelchairs and adaptive equipment to Honolulu for repair. We were grateful for a donation of a shipping container to Kapi'olani Medical Center for storage of wheelchairs and rehabilitative equipment for a community loan program. These exemplify just a few of Mr. Hong's solution-oriented actions that positively impacted many lives.

I am privileged to offer my support of Mr. Glenn Hong, not only for his professional contribution to the Board of Agriculture, but as a person who has consistently done his part to make Hawai'i a better place for all of us.

Alan Takemoto
94-317 Mahinahou Street
Mililani, HI 96789
292-3205 (cellular)

April 12, 2012

Senate Committee on
Agriculture

Testimony in support of
GM 827
Glenn Hong

Chair Nishihara and committee members:

My name is Alan Takemoto and I am in support of GM 827 - Glenn Hong for your consideration and confirmation to the State Board of Agriculture.

I believe Mr. Glenn Hong will be an excellent nominee for the Board of Agriculture. As head of Young Brothers for many years, he understands the challenges and opportunities that transportation has for Hawaii's farmers and ranchers. His knowledge and expertise of Hawaii's interisland shipping industry will complement and benefit the Board of Agriculture. I also believe that he has a broader perspective on the overall issues that can add to the discussion on expanding and developing Hawaii's agricultural industry overall.

I have worked with Mr. Hong on agricultural issues related to transportation and found him to be fair and balanced. I am confident that Mr. Hong will be a great addition to the Board of Agriculture.

I support and urge the passage of GM 827 for your confirmation of Mr. Glenn Hong for the State Board of Agriculture. Thank you.

nishihara1 - Danille

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2012 11:27 AM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: mnakahata@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for GM827 on 4/12/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 4/12/2012 2:45:00 PM GM827

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

Comments:

I strongly support the nomination of Mr. Hong. As head of YB he has led the efforts to address transportation issues facing agriculture. His business background is valuable as pragmatic solutions to expanding Hawaii's agriculture are developed.

nishihara1 - Danille

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2012 11:29 AM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: warrenmcfb@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for GM827 on 4/12/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 4/12/2012 2:45:00 PM GM827

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

Comments:

I have worked with Mr. Hong over the years addressing transportation issues facing agriculture. I have found him to be open for discussion and willing to seek solutions to challenges facing the industry. His wide range of experience over time and relationships in the community will be a valuable asset to the Board of Agriculture.

nishihara1 - Danille

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 5:15 AM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: gottlieb@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for GM827 on 4/12/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 4/12/2012 2:45:00 PM GM827

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Alan Gottlieb
Organization: Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
E-mail: gottlieb@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/28/2012

Comments: