

GM 865

Testimony

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



JAMES J. NAKATANI
Executive Director

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 JAMES NAKATANI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE**

Thursday, April 12, 2012
2:45 pm
Conference Room 229

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 865
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, 2016

Chairperson Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

The Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) is in strong support for the consideration and confirmation of Letitia Uyehara for reappointment to the ADC board of directors. Ms. Uyehara is currently serving as Chairperson of the ADC Planning Sub-Committee and throughout her one year term regularly attended and participated in board meetings.

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.



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. 865

Chairperson Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

I appreciate this opportunity to express my strong support for the appointment of Letitia Uyehara as a member of the Board of Directors for the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC), an attached agency of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA).

Ms. Uyehara is clearly qualified for this appointment through her extensive involvement in Hawai'i agriculture industry, in both government and private industry. As ADC strives to enhance and expand Hawai'i's agriculture through public and private enterprises, her experience and knowledge will be of great value to the board and its mission.

Ms. Uyehara is currently the director of marketing and special programs at Armstrong Produce Ltd., one of the largest wholesale produce distribution companies in Hawai'i. Through her efforts, Armstrong Produce has been a leader in advancing food safety initiatives in the state. Their willingness to work with the state and farmers on technology such as radio frequency identification monitoring of food shipments have been groundbreaking.



Ms. Uyehara previously served as deputy to the Chairperson for the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture where she helped to manage the various and diverse responsibilities of the department. Prior to that, she served as communications officer for HDOA. Her experience in government also includes positions as the director of the Department of Health (DOH) Office of Environmental Quality Control and as a hearings officer with DOH's Environmental Health Protection Services Division. Other experience includes positions in various state legislative offices.

Given her extensive experience in Hawai'i's agricultural sector, I am confident that Ms. Uyehara will be a valuable asset to the ADC board and I strongly urge your support for her confirmation.

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, Letitia Uyehara (GM 865)

As a Member of the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation

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

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

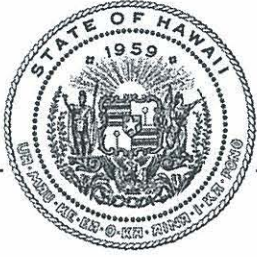
The department supports the confirmation of Letitia Uyehara to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC). Since its establishment in 1994, the ADC's charge has been to facilitate and provide direction for the transition of our agriculture industry from sugar and pineapple to diversified agriculture.

Ms. Uyehara is currently the Director of Marketing and Special Programs at Armstrong Produce Ltd. Previously, she spent over thirty years in state government, serving as a former Department of Agriculture deputy director, Communications Officer at the Department of Agriculture, as a former director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control of the Department of Health, and as a Public Participation Coordinator, Hearings Officer for the Department of Health, Environmental Protection and Health Services Branch. Ms. Uyehara also worked as legislative staff in the State House of Representatives and as researcher for the Legislative Reference Bureau.

Her valuable experience in providing direction and oversight for agricultural programs and her expertise in matters of environmental quality will serve the public interest well as a Board member of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

I urge you to confirm Letitia Uyehara to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, where she would continue to be a valuable asset to the Board and hence to the entire state.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Ms. Uyehara.



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

RICHARD C. LIM
DIRECTOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
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Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS
Deputy Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism

before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

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

in consideration of

GM 865

**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, LETITIA UYEHARA,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2016.**

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

I respectfully urge your **strong support** for the confirmation of Letitia Uyehara to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

I have known Tish Uyehara for many years and worked with her when she was the Deputy Director of the State Department of Agriculture. Tish has worked in agriculture and food distribution. She understands the business requirements for successful agricultural operations. She understands the challenges facing Hawaii's vision of increasing our food self-sufficiency and the role that the Agribusiness Development Corporation can play in achieving that goal.

Tish will be a valuable addition to the Agribusiness Development Corporation Board.

I respectfully urge your favorable consideration of the nomination of Letitia Uyehara.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.



Meadow Gold Dairies



GM 865, Letitia Uyehara
Gubernatorial Nominee
Board of Directors
Agribusiness Development Corporation

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.

Letitia Uyehara, "Tish" comes with a unique background and accomplishments directly related to Hawaii agriculture. In her current capacity with Armstrong Produce Ltd, she is responsible for its marketing program of agricultural produce. As a former Deputy Director of Agriculture, she had oversight over a broad range of programs from plant pest control to marketing to irrigation systems. In her former and current capacity, she manages the Government Affairs function.

This broad range of experience and skills will enhance the Agribusiness Development Corporation to achieve greater vision and implementation of its services to help farmers.

Your support of Letitia Uyehara's confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation is appreciated. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. If you have any questions, please contact me at 944-5911.

Personal Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture
April 12, 2012 at 2:45 p.m.
by
Dr. Sylvia Yuen

Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

I am Sylvia Yuen, Interim Dean and Director of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) at the University of Hawai'i. This is personal testimony offered in strong support for **GM 865**, 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, 2016. This testimony does not represent the position of the University of Hawai'i or CTAHR.

CTAHR has long benefited from its association with Ms. Uyehara. In the 1980's Letitia offered her marketing experience and advised the college as it developed the acronym that it now goes by. When she served as HDOA's Deputy Director and Communications Officer she reached out to establish collaborative projects with CTAHR to promote Hawai'i agriculture. More recently Letitia, as Director of Marketing and Special Programs for Armstrong Produce, has served as an essential partner with CTAHR in facilitating the implementation of food safety certification between growers and grocery retailers. Letitia's participation with and affirmation of CTAHR's On-Farm Food Safety Program has proven to be pivotal in accelerating growers' and retailers' acceptance and understanding of the necessity and benefits of safe food practices.

Letitia's expansive knowledge of Hawai'i agriculture, its related issues, commodities and people, from farm to table, will contribute greatly to ADC's abilities to comprehensively address matters before the board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Brian Miyamoto

APRIL 12, 2012

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON GM 865

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:

My name is Brian Miyamoto and I am writing in **strong support** for the confirmation and reappointment of Letitia Uyehara to the Agribusiness Development Corporation Board of Directors.

As the Director of Marketing and Special Programs with Armstrong Produce Ltd., Ms. Uyehara continuously supports Hawaii's farmers by promoting their locally grown produce. She was instrumental in developing a food safety and HACCP program for Armstrong Produce which made them one of the first wholesale companies to be food safety and HACCP certified in the state. She has also worked with the University of Hawaii to help establish a farmer outreach program to assist farmers in achieving greater food safety in their fields and packing areas.

Ms. Uyehara has years of experience in Hawaii's agricultural industry through public service, having served with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture as the Communications Officer and Deputy Director, 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's extensive background and her years of experience in government and the private sector make her a perfect candidate to serve on the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation. I am pleased to support the nomination and reappointment Ms. Letitia Uyehara.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony.

TESTIMONY OF JERI KAHANA

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

April 12, 2011

2:45 P.M.

ROOM 229

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 865
RELATING TO CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE LETITIA UYEHARA

Chairperson Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Governor's Message 865 relating to the consideration and confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee, Letitia Uyehara to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation. 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 over thirty 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 your consideration and the opportunity to testify.

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

April 12, 2012

Senate Committee on
Agriculture

Testimony in support of
GM 865
Letitia Uyehara

Chair Nishihara and committee members:

My name is Alan Takemoto and I am in support of GM 865 – Letitia Uyehara for your consideration and confirmation to the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC).

I believe Ms. Letitia “Tish” Uyehara will be an excellent nominee and member of the ADC. Tish has a great wealth of knowledge of Hawaii’s agricultural industry as she was former Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture and now part of Armstrong Produce, one of the largest wholesale companies that market produce in Hawaii. I have had the pleasure of working with Tish on many of Hawaii’s agricultural issues.

As both of us are currently ADC board members, I have found Tish to be an exceptional board member that is always exploring ways we can help Hawaii’s farmers and ranchers expand and develop their markets. I look forward to working with her as she definitely brings a broader perspective of addressing the many agribusiness issues before us.

I have found Tish Uyehara to be practical, fair and balanced. I am confident that she will continue to be an excellent ADC board member.

I support and urge the passage of GM 865 for your confirmation and reappointment of Ms. Letitia Uyehara to the ADC board. Thank you.

nishihara1 - Danille

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2012 11:34 AM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: mnakahata@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for GM865 on 4/12/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 4/12/2012 2:45:00 PM GM865

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:

nishihara1 - Danille

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2012 11:35 AM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: warrenmcfb@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for GM865 on 4/12/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 4/12/2012 2:45:00 PM GM865

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:

nishihara1 - Danille

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 02, 2012 2:29 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: wlkata@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Testimony for GM864 on 4/12/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 4/12/2012 2:45:00 PM GM864

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Wayne Katayama
Organization: Individual
E-mail: wlkata@hawaiiantel.net
Submitted on: 4/2/2012

Comments:

Strong Support - Tish has the needed experience and expertise as a former Vice Chair of the Department of Ag to contribute to make ADC a better and more rounded agency.

TESTIMONY FOR THE CONFIRMATION OF DEREK KURISU AND LETITIA UYEHARA TO
THE ADC BOARD OF DIRECTORS - GM 864 and 865

Chairman Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

My name is Yukio Kitagawa and I am submitting this testimony to support the nominations of Derek Kurisu and Letitia Uyehara to the Board Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

I have known and worked with both individuals for many years and have come to respect their desires to develop the agricultural industry of Hawaii. Having served on the board myself, I have an understanding of the role the board in helping the industry and I believe both of them will contribute a lot towards fulfilling the mission of the board.

Both

come with different expertise which is good for the make-up of the board

but both have the passion to help the development of agriculture become more viable part in our economy.

The development of agriculture in the future, I believe, can be enhanced

with the partnership from the private sector, with the public sector and I am confident that these two individuals can help do this. Both have the vision of seeing the broader picture and this perspective which

is a vital element if ADC is to play a major role in the development of agriculture.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, your favorable consideration will be greatly appreciated.