

GM 874

Testimony

Testimony of
Qing X. Li
to the Senate Committee on Agriculture

April 12, 2012, 2:50 P.M.

(Governor's Message 874)

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides, Gubernatorial Nominee, Qing X. Li, for a term to expire June 30, 2016.

Chair Nishihara and members of the Committee:

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to present my background today.

I thank Governor Neil Abercrombie for nominating me. I am honored to be considered to serve on the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

I also thank everyone who submitted letters of support on my behalf and to everyone here in attendance for their support and aloha.

I was born and raised in China. I grew up on a farm in Shandong Province, a Province in the east coast of China. I received a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture from Shandong Agricultural University in Shandong Province. I obtained my Ph.D. degree in Agricultural and Environmental Chemistry from the University of California at Davis. After my Ph.D. degree, I had my postdoctoral training at the University of California at Berkeley in the Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management.

In 1995, I joined the University of Hawaii's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources as the director of the Pesticide Residue Research Laboratory, a position that I continue to hold at this time. I have worked closely with the State Department of Agriculture's Pesticides Branch and the State Department of Health's Office of Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response on a variety of projects in the past 17 years. My

research, teaching and outreach activities have been directly related to pesticides – registration, pest control, analysis, exposure, disposal, remediation, etc. I have published more than 200 peer-reviewed scientific papers; I have submitted more than 40 pesticide technical reports for registration of pesticides for uses on Hawaii crops.

Serving on the Advisory Committee on Pesticides would give me the opportunity to work on proposing solutions to pesticide problems in Hawaii. Pesticides are the cornerstones of agriculture and pest management. When used properly pesticides are considered safe, yet there are many concerns over pesticides. Therefore, proper use and disposal of pesticides are at least as important as increasing the standards for pesticide registration. Valid pesticide laws and regulations are essential in protection of human and environmental health as well as sustainable agriculture.

In summary, my background, education, experience, and personality allow me to work well with the committee members in addressing pesticide issues critical to the State of Hawaii.

Thank you again for considering my nomination. I would ask you for your support on my nomination to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

I would be happy to answer any question the Committee may have.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Deputy to the Chairperson

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TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2012
2:45 PM

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 874

Chairperson Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on Governor's Message No. 874, submitting for consideration and confirmation as a member on the Advisory Committee on Pesticides Dr. Qing Xiao Li. The Department would like to express its strong support for Dr. Qing Xiao Li's nomination.

Dr. Li has previously served a 4-year term as a member on the Advisory Committee on Pesticides during the period of July 1, 2007 – June 2011. Since 1995, as a professor at the University of Hawaii, Dr. Li has engaged in research concerning pesticide safety, registration, residue and environmental fate. He has also worked closely with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture Pesticides Branch on a pesticide waste disposal program and shared insights on pesticide groundwater contamination and remediation.

Having served on the Advisory Committee on Pesticides, Dr. Li provides a continuum of knowledge from the past Advisory Committee on Pesticides to one with many new members. Dr. Li's storied background in pesticide research, concern in providing solutions to pesticide problems and affability with committee members make him worthy to serve on the Advisory Committee on Pesticides for a second 4-year term.

Dr. Li provides precise, accurate information that is easy to understand.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer my support.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MĀNOA

College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
Department of Human Nutrition, Food and Animal Sciences

April 5, 2012

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture:

This letter is to support the nomination of Professor Qing Li to be a member of the Advisory Committee on Pesticides. I have known Professor Li since he first became a faculty member in the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) in 1995. During his 17 years on the faculty at the University of Hawaii, he has demonstrated that he is an extremely competent and productive scientist. He has published over 200 peer-reviewed articles, submitted or received a license or patent for four innovative ideas, and wrote 45 technical reports on pesticide residues for registration. In addition, he has directed residue studies for 19 pesticides for use on 25 different Hawaii Crops. Besides supervising a large number of individuals in his laboratory, Professor Li has also been involved with Federal and State agencies, with other universities, in organizing workshops and in serving as a reviewer for over 20 different scientific journals. You can clearly see his qualifications in the resume he has submitted.

However, what his resume doesn't tell you is the kind of person he is. Since he was first hired by CTAHR, I have found him to be one of the most pleasant, positive, and engaging individuals I have ever met. He has an outgoing personality, has a ready smile for people he meets, and he has a way of putting people at ease. He is a diligent worker, does what he says he will do, contributes good ideas and suggestions to students and department and college committee members, and works well with people. Lastly, since he now considers Hawaii his home, he has been attempting to find ways in which he can contribute back to the community where he has raised his children. He was the force behind getting teachers at a local public high school to consider writing a grant to EPA to have students study pesticides and other chemicals and then find ways to remediate the problem.

I wrote this letter as a colleague who knows the nominee very well. However, I also wish to write this letter of support as a person intimately familiar with Hawaii's previous pesticide problems. In 1983, I was hired to be Chief Chemist of the Chemistry Section of the Laboratories Division of the Hawaii Department of Health soon after heptachlor was discovered in Hawaii's milk supply, and to implement quality assurance measures so that it would not occur again. In 1985, I was hired to be the Program Manager of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture's Pesticide Branch immediately after controversies arose about misuse of pesticides by applicators. Having this background knowledge about pesticide problems, I strongly believe that Professor Li will bring to the Advisory Committee a strong scientific background on pesticides, be able to look at risks and benefits, and be able to suggest innovative ways to use and regulate pesticides so it can be a benefit for applicators as well as protect consumers from unnecessary exposure and unintentional contamination.

I strongly support the nomination of Professor Qing Li to be a member of the Advisory Committee on Pesticides – without any hesitation or reservation.

Sincerely,

Wayne T. Iwaoka
Professor of Food Science and Food Toxicology
Former Program Manager, HDOA Pesticide Branch

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

Chairman 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 874, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides, Gubernatorial Nominee, Qing Xiao Li, for a term to expire June 30, 2015. I would like to offer my unconditional support for Dr. Li's nomination. This testimony does not represent the position of the University of Hawai'i or CTAHR.

I am very honored to share with you Dr. Li's qualifications for this very important advisory position. Since joining CTAHR in 1995, Dr. Li has served as the Director of the Pesticide Residue Research Laboratory which is part of the USDA's Inter-regional (IR-4) pesticide residue safety project. For over 17 years, Dr. Li has conducted research, teaching and outreach activities that are directly related to pesticides, their registration, pest control, analysis, exposure, disposal, and environmental clean-up. Dr. Li has supervised the analysis of pesticide residues for 10 pesticides on 25 different Hawai'i crops using federal funds. Dr. Li has written over 40 pesticide technical reports for registering the safe and effective use of pesticides on Hawai'i crops, and has authored or coauthored more than 200 refereed scientific papers.

Dr. Li is well acquainted with working closely with the State of Hawai'i Department of Agriculture, particularly the Pesticide Branch, on a variety of projects. Besides pesticide registration, he also conducts studies of essential oils for fruit fly control funded by USDA, develops rapid assays to assess human exposure to pesticides funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and conducts air sampling analysis for pesticide residues and odorous chemicals in Waimea, Kaua'i. He works closely with the State Department of Health's Office of Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response, analyzing chemicals in food as part of a state-wide emergency response to the exposure of infants and women to toxic metals in seafood.

Dr. Li has served on numerous committees at the university, national and international levels. These include the following:

- a) the University of Hawai'i's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee since 1997;
- b) the organization committees for the 4th Pan Pacific Pesticide Conference in Honolulu in 2008;
- c) the International Conference on the Environment in 2009; and
- d) the International Conference on Environmental Omics in 2011.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer my support for Dr. Li's confirmation.

Governors' Message 874

Nomination of Dr. Qing X. Li to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides

Before the Senate Committee on Agriculture

April 12, 2012

Statement of Robert Boesch

Honorable Clarence Nishihara and Members of the Committee

This testimony is in strong support for the nomination of Dr. Qing X. Li, Professor, Department of Molecular Biosciences and Bioengineering, to represent the University of Hawaii on the Pesticides Advisory Committee. As a retired pesticides program manager for the State, I served as staff support for the Pesticides Advisory Committee (for 21 years). Dr. Li attended meetings regularly. He provided informed and insightful comments on important issues. He was also willing to take on challenging research projects involving pesticides.

Dr. Li has been the Director of the Pesticides Residue Research Laboratory since his appointment to the University in 1995. He has been the principal researcher for projects involving pesticides in groundwater, phytoremediation of hazardous substances, pesticides in air, and the identification of unlabeled substances (necessary to determine safe methods of handling and disposal).

Dr. Li serves as the University of Hawaii representative on the Pesticides Advisory Committee. I strongly support his renomination.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on his behalf.

Robert Boesch