



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
TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2013
02:45 PM

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 504

Chairperson Senator Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on Governor's Message No. 504, submitting for consideration and confirmation as a member on the Advisory Committee on Pesticides, JEFFREY KERMODE. The Department would like to express its strong support for Mr. Kermode's nomination.

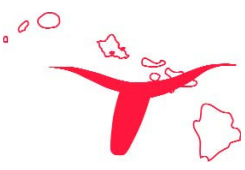
Mr. Kermode has over 20 years of work experience on a variety of environmental related fields serving in the role of Environmental Projects Manager or Environmental Affairs' Specialist. He has worked on pesticide related issues while working for the Maui Pineapple Company and currently is employed by the Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Company (HC&S).

Mr. Kermode would serve as the representative from the Sugar Industry with knowledge of two of Hawaii's legacy agricultural industries. He is currently responsible for the management of proper pesticides use in HC&S's agriculture field operations. This experience has provided Mr. Kermode with a good understanding of environmental stewardship and ability to analyze how these operations can be affected by regulatory changes.

Mr. Kermode is a registered environmental assessor in the State of California. His environmental background and experience will be an important asset to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.





Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

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SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

SENATOR CLARENCE K. NISHIHARA, CHAIR
SENATOR RONALD D. KOUCHI, VICE CHAIR

TESTIMONY ON GM 504

**Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Advisory Committee on
Pesticides, Gubernatorial Nominee,
JEFFREY KERMODE, for a term to expire 6-30-2016.**

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kouchi and Members of the Committees:

My name is Alan Gottlieb, and I am the Government Affairs Chairperson of 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 504.

Comprehension of the science of Pesticides, the needs of users, and the requirements to provide human and environmental safety during their use, is important to protect Hawaii's people and environment while allowing the judicious use of this important resource. Mr. Kermode possesses the knowledge required to make decisions incorporating all of these considerations.

Mr. Kermode encounters these decisions every day during his current position at HC&S and also has experience in this area during his tenure at Maui Pineapple Company.

Please support Mr. Kermode's nomination.

We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: warrenmcfb@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for GM504 on Mar 5, 2013 14:45PM*
Date: Sunday, March 03, 2013 9:53:25 PM

GM504

Submitted on: 3/3/2013

Testimony for AGL on Mar 5, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Warren Watanabe	Maui County Farm Bureau	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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F E D E R A T I O N

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February 5, 2013

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON GM 504

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides,
Gubernatorial Nominee, JEFFREY KERMODE, for a term to expire 6-30-2016.

Room 229
2:45 PM

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

I am Dean Okimoto, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF). Organized since 1948, the HFBF is comprised of 1,950 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 in strong support of the appointment of Mr. Jeffrey Kermode to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Comprehension of the science of Pesticides, the needs of users, and the requirements to provide human and environmental safety during their use, is important to protect Hawaii's people and environment while allowing the judicious use of this important resource. Mr. Kermode possesses the knowledge required to make decisions incorporating all of these considerations.

Mr. Kermode encounters these decisions every day during his current position at HC&S and also has experience in this area during his tenure at Maui Pineapple Company.

HFBF respectfully requests your strong support of Mr. Kermode to the Pesticide Advisory Committee. Thank you for this opportunity to provide our opinion on this important matter.

**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NUMBER 504
NOMINATION OF JEFFERY KERMODE FOR APPOINTMENT TO
THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDES**

**SEAN M. O'KEEFE
DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
ALEXANDER & BALDWIN, INC.**

March 5, 2013

Chair Nishihara and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture:

I am Sean O'Keefe, testifying on behalf of Alexander & Baldwin, Inc. (A&B) and its division Hawaiian Commercial and Sugar Company (HC&S) on GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NUMBER 504. A&B strongly supports the nomination of Jeffery Kermode to serve on the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

As the Environmental Affairs Specialist for HC&S, Mr. Kermode is responsible for ensuring the company's compliance with a wide range of environmental regulations, including pesticide regulations. His position requires him not only to be knowledgeable about pesticide regulations but also to interpret and apply those regulations to our sugarcane farming operations at HC&S. He is therefore uniquely suited to understand the potential impact of proposed new regulations on farming interests, to recognize potential challenges to their implementation in the real world, and to assist the Department of Agriculture in ensuring that regulations are both protective of human health and the environment and practical. Mr. Kermode's past experience working on similar environmental issues in the pineapple industry will further assist him in representing the interests of agriculture on the Committee.

We respectfully request that you confirm Mr. Kermode's appointment to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NUMBER 504
NOMINATION OF JEFFREY KERMODE FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDES**

**RICK W. VOLNER, JR.
PLANTATION GENERAL MANAGER
HAWAIIAN COMMERCIAL & SUGAR COMPANY**

March 5, 2013

Chair Nishihara and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture:

I am Rick W. Volner Jr., testifying on behalf of Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Company (HC&S) and the Hawaii sugar industry in general, on GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NUMBER 504. HC&S strongly supports the nomination of Jeffrey Kermode to serve on the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Mr. Kermode has gained significant experience from working in the environmental consulting sector of Hawaii and by working in the environmental side of the agriculture sector, both in pineapple and sugar cane. This combination of experiences provides him with a good understanding of environmental regulations while appreciating the challenges faced by farmers.

Having an Advisory Committee member who understands the daily operations required to farm sugarcane is essential to ensure the sugar industry is appropriately represented. Mr. Kermode's experience and dedication to preserving and protecting the environment will allow him to assist the Department of Agriculture in developing pesticide laws and regulations that meet its objective of protecting human health and the environment yet are still practicable for farmers to implement.

I respectfully request that you confirm Mr. Kermode's appointment to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Testimony Before the Senate Committee on Agriculture

March 5, 2013

2:45 PM

Conference Room 229

Jeffrey E. Kermode
Advisory Committee on Pesticides
(GM-504)

Chair Nishihara and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, thank you for considering my nomination for appointment to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides and for this opportunity to present my qualifications to you.

I have worked in the environmental field in Hawaii since 1999. For nine years I worked in the private sector in environmental consulting. For the last four years I have been employed in the agricultural sector in the capacity of Environmental Manager for Maui Land & Pineapple Company and, most recently, as Environmental Affairs Specialist at Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Company. From this work experience, I recognize the importance of preserving and protecting both the environment and agriculture on Maui and throughout the islands. My work in the agriculture industry has given me a good understanding of farming operations and how they can be affected by regulatory changes and, more specifically, my current employment at HC&S, has given me the operational background necessary to ably represent the sugar industry on the Committee.

Farming is subject to a wide range of government regulations aimed at safeguarding our island environment. It is the agricultural company's responsibility to comply with these regulations but it is also important that the regulatory agency ensures all regulations have a sound scientific basis and are formed with an understanding of how they will impact farmers to ensure practicable implementation.

As a member of the Advisory Committee on Pesticides, I will be able to provide input from the farmer's perspective which I believe is important during the development of pesticide regulations. It will be both challenging and rewarding to work with other stakeholders, each with their own varying interests and viewpoints, towards a common objective. I strongly believe that allowing input from all stakeholders, whether farmers or regulators, industry or environmental groups, throughout the rulemaking process helps to ensure the development of rules that are workable in the real world while still meeting regulatory objectives. By bringing my practical experience to the rulemaking process, I believe I can greatly assist the Department of Agriculture in developing pesticide laws and regulations that meet its objective of protecting human health and the environment while still allowing farmers to utilize the tools they need to farm.

I look forward to the opportunity to assist farmers in Hawaii, and the Department of Agriculture, by serving on the Advisory Committee on Pesticides. I thank you for the opportunity to testify, and respectfully ask for your support of my nomination. Thank you.