



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. 597

Chairperson Senator Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on Governor's Message No. 597, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture (BOA), Mr. Glenn Hong given his outstanding service for the past 8 months on the BOA. I would like to express my strong support for Mr. Hong's nomination for a full, four year term.

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 inter-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 provides key insight and perspective on the issue of transportation of agricultural commodities. Mr. Hong's knowledge regarding the issues of transportation have granted the Board a fuller view of all the factors and challenges our local farmers are facing. His active participation and excellent working relationships with BOA members has resulted in a clearer understanding of the agriculture industry in Hawaii and the role of the BOA to enhance opportunities for agriculture.



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

I am confident that Mr. Hong will continue to bring a unique and vital perspective to the Board of Agriculture, and I look forward positively to his continuing public service as a productive member of the Board of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer my support.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

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SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

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

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 597

**Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture,
Gubernatorial Nominee, GLENN HONG, for a term to expire 6/30/2017.**

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 597.

Glenn Hong has served on the Board of Agriculture for the last year and has done an excellent job on behalf of the agricultural industry. He is also 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.

Mr. Hong's vast business experience and background, and his knowledge of the transportation industry, so important to Hawaii agriculture, make Mr. Hong an excellent choice for the Hawaii Board of Agriculture.

Please support Mr. Hong's nomination.

We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.



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

2343 Rose Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
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www.hfbf.org

February 5, 2013

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON GM 597

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, GLENN HONG, for a term to expire 6-30-2017.

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. Glenn Hong to the Board of Agriculture.

Many speak to the importance of agriculture but few are willing to make the commitment needed to implement actions that enhance the industry's ability to support the viability of farmers and ranchers. Mr. Hong, in his current position at Young Brothers has demonstrated a commitment to the industry, willing to listen and seek solutions when challenges are encountered. He understands that plans deliver ideas but it is action that results in true support to the farmer and rancher.

Mr. Hong's pragmatism is critical to the Board during this trying time. His common sense approach, separating wishful thinking from practical implementation is an important character needed to guide the Board on priorities needed for the industry.

HFBF respectfully requests your strong support of Mr. Hong to the Board of Agriculture. Thank you for this opportunity to provide our opinion on this important matter.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: warrenmcfb@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for GM597 on Mar 5, 2013 14:45PM*
Date: Sunday, March 03, 2013 9:56:44 PM

GM597

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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SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

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

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 597: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, GLENN HONG, for a term to expire 6/30/2017.

Testimony in Support

**By Roy Catalani, Matthew Humphrey and Dean Kapoi
Vice Presidents, Young Brothers, Limited
March 5, 2013, 2:45 pm, Conference Room 229**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Governor's Message 597 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 has served on the Board of Agriculture for the last year. He is also 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 agriculture 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 agriculture 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 agriculture 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 and support Governor's Message 597.



Meadow Gold Dairies



GM 597, Glenn Hong
Gubernatorial Nominee
Board of Agriculture
Senate AGL Hearing
Tuesday, March 5, 2013
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—116 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 330 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 Hawaii's 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.

Glenn Hong's appointment to serve on the Hawaii's Board of Agriculture through June 30, 2017 is strongly supported. 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.

28 February 2013

Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair, Ronald Kouchi, Vice Chair, and Committee Members
Senate Committee on Agriculture
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 229
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Gubernatorial nomination to Board of Agriculture; Letter of Recommendation

Dear Honorable Nishihara:

This letter serves to recommend Mr. Glenn Hong to serve on the Board of Agriculture. Mr. Hong and I have worked together in many routine and challenging times in Hawaii's maritime development and during my time as a consultant and President.

We first met during my service as the United States Coast Guard, Captain of the Port for Hawaii's ports. This period had numerous operations and unique opportunities for us to interact in regards to Hawaii's ports supporting cargo movements and agriculture growth in the islands. Probably most notably was his support of efforts to create a Hawaiian waterfront working group, Hawaii Ocean Safety Team (HOST). It was and continues to assist in getting groups, businesses, and the community to work together in deconflicting use of local waters and ports.

Over the past 12 years we have been advising the Hawaii maritime community including DOT Harbors and the many industry representatives in port safety and security measures, port recovery, and port resiliency measures. In these efforts, Mr. Hong is a highly respected member of the maritime community and is continually sought for his in depth knowledge of the ports, the maritime infrastructure, public safety and security, and betterment of the industry. I can think of no single person in Hawaii with a better business understanding and someone who could provide outstanding input to Hawaii's Board of Agriculture.

Mr. Hong also has a unique capability to reach out and connect organizations with common interests or concerns. There is no means to disconnect Hawaii's agriculture from the maritime element of Hawaii.

I also had the honor of working closely with him during a Corporate review project. My efforts were to review a number of companies for risk management. His operation was outstanding in all elements of our review. I would gladly provide any additional information you may require.

Sincerely,



Frank Whipple
Captain, USCG (ret)
President



March 5, 2013

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Chair, Sen. Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair Sen. Ronald Kouchi, and Committee Members
Public Hearing, March 5, 2013, 2:45p.m. Conference Room 229, State Capitol

TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM F. ANONSEN
MANAGING PARTNER/PRINCIPAL OF
THE MARITIME GROUP
IN SUPPORT OF GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 597

My name is William F. Anonsen, the Managing Partner/Principal of The Maritime Group, and chair of the State Civil Defense Advisory Council. I would like to express my personal support for confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee, Mr. Glenn Hong to the Board of Agriculture for a term to expire June 30, 2017.

Through my professional and personal association with Mr. Hong for many years, I have found him to be a dedicated individual who consistently performs his professional and civic responsibilities with a sense of commitment, pride and duty. He has the professional credentials, years of experience and personal attributes necessary that make him an outstanding nominee which he has consistently demonstrated by his years of dedicated service to Hawaii's transportation industry and our island communities.

Mr. Hong is a leader in our community and a team player who works well with all people and is an excellent facilitator. He has demonstrated on several occasions, his strong analytical skills, and his ability to remain committed to his principals, always with the highest degree of ethics and diplomacy in times of heated conflicting opposition. I have always found him to carefully consider difficult issues, and through a structured investigative process and mindset, he develops calculated decisions that address and work to resolve an issue. Most important, Glenn stands by his beliefs and principals, strongly defending them skillfully and with respectful tact.

Mr. Hong is well versed in a myriad of transportation issues and is an individual of unquestionable integrity and fairness, and has my personal vote of confidence on the Board of Agriculture. The success of the mandated mission of the Department of Agriculture is too important to our remote island state and deserves strong leadership and commitment to purpose.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this distinguished business and community leader.

Sincerely, *William F. Anonsen*

William F. Anonsen
Managing Partner/Principal