

# **GM 777**

# **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  
TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2013  
2:45 PM

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 777

Chairperson Senator Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on Governor's Message No. 777, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture (BOA), Mr. Clark Hashimoto. With his previous four years of outstanding contributions as a member of the BOA, I would like to express my strong support for Mr. Hashimoto's nomination for another full four year term.

Mr. Hashimoto brings to the Board a wealth of agricultural experience and perspective. He has worked for most of his career as a County Extension Agent under the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, Cooperative Extension Service, supporting farmers in Hawaii's diversified agricultural industry. Mr. Hashimoto has also served as the Agriculture Specialist for the County of Maui where he served as the coordinator for the Kula Agricultural Park. Most importantly, Mr. Hashimoto actively farms as the manager of the Hashimoto Persimmon Farm on Maui.

During his first term on the Board of Agriculture, Mr. Hashimoto has been an active presence on the Board and has ensured that Hawaii's farmers have a voice in



guiding the policies for the Department of Agriculture. His on-the-ground farming experience has brought real-world perspective to board discussions.

I am confident that Mr. Hashimoto will continue to be a vital contributor 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 Farm Bureau  
F E D E R A T I O N

2343 Rose Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96819  
Phone: (808) 848-2074 • Neighbor-Islands: (800) 482-1272  
Fax: (808) 848-1921 • Email: [info@hfbf.org](mailto:info@hfbf.org)  
[www.hfbf.org](http://www.hfbf.org)

April 16, 2013

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON GM 777

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to Board of Agriculture, Gubernatorial  
Nominee, CLARK HASHIMOTO.

Room 224  
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 strongly supports the reappointment of Mr. Clark Hashimoto to the Board of Agriculture.

Mr. Hashimoto or "Clark" as he is known to farmers across the State is well qualified due to his long tenure as a County Extension Agent and eventually County Administrator, farmer on a multigenerational farm that has undergone evolution to involve value added products, and County Agricultural Coordinator on Maui, addressing agricultural issues in the County of Maui.

Clark is always willing to listen and is patient and fair in his decisions. As a farmer, trying to maintain, sustain and protect his farm for future generations, his real life experience that he brings to the Board is significant. As one from the neighbor island, he is also familiar with the challenges faced by those who produce products away from the population center.

We respectfully request your strong support of Mr. Clark Hashimoto to the Board of Agriculture.



**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NUMBER 777  
NOMINATION OF CLARK HASHIMOTO FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE  
BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

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

**April 13, 2013**

Chair Nishihara and Members of the Senate Agriculture Committee:

I am Rick W. Volner Jr., testifying on behalf of Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Company (HC&S), on GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NUMBER 777. HC&S strongly supports the nomination of Clark Hashimoto to continue his service on the Board of Agriculture.

I have known Clark for over 25 years and his ardent support and promotion of all forms of agriculture in Hawaii is commendable. His experiences as a small farmer, University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture Extension Agent, Maui County Office of Economic Development Agricultural Specialist and participation on various community advisory boards make him an experienced and competent board member.

Clark's strong commitment to public service and understanding of the issues and challenges facing Hawaii's agricultural community is an asset to the Board of Agriculture. He is dedicated to the preservation and productive use of Hawaii's agricultural resources and will use this opportunity to further support agriculture for the benefit of Hawaii.

I respectfully request that you confirm Mr. Hashimoto's appointment to the Board of Agriculture. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

TESTIMONY  
OF  
CLARK S. HASHIMOTO  
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE  
ON  
AGRICULTURE  
ON  
APRIL 16, 2013  
Gm 777

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, CLARK S. HASHIMOTO, for a term to expire on June 30, 2017.

Chair Nishihara and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.

I want to thank Governor Neil Abercrombie for the nomination. I truly consider this an honor to serve on the Board of Agriculture.

Also, many thanks to everyone who submitted letters of support on my behalf and for everyone attending this hearing to show their support.

I am a life long resident of Kula, Maui where I was born and raised on a farm with my two brothers and sisters. Since education was a high priority for my parents, all five of us have a college education through the hard work of both my parents. I graduated from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo with a Bachelors in Agriculture Business Management. My career in agriculture includes employment at the Hawaiian Sugar Planters Association, a 28 year career with the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Services as an Extension Agent and County Administrator, and also serving as the Agriculture Specialist under then Mayor Charmaine Tavares. I am now a full-time persimmon farmer in Kula, Maui.

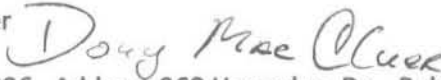
Dear Senators,

4.11.13

I highly recommend Clark Hashimoto for the position on the Board of Agriculture. As a former Board of Ag. Member serving with Clark, he was always a great contributor on the Board. He is retired from CTAHR and served on Maui as the Ag specialist for the County of Maui. He is most qualified.

Sincerely,

Doug MacCluer



Phone- 572-7336, Address-360 Hoopalua Dr., Pukalani, Hawaii, 96768