

GM619 Testimony

Submitting for consideration and confirmation
to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness
Development Corporation, Gubernatorial
Nominee, KEKOA KALUHIWA, for a term to
expire 6-30-2018.

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 10, 2014
2:45 pm
Conference Room 229

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 619
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF
DIRECTORS OF THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, KEKOA KALUHIWA,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2018

Chairperson Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

The Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) is in strong support for the consideration and confirmation of Kekoa Kaluhiwa to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation. Kekoa has a solid background in communication and educates companies to understand the unique cultural and environmental challenges in doing business in Hawaii.

Kekoa served as a Director of External Affairs, for First Wind Energy (FWE) from February 2010 to December 2012. FWE constructed three utility scale wind farms on Oahu and Maui with a combined investment of nearly \$500 million.

He has also served as an Executive Assistant, Office of U.S. Senator Daniel K. Akaka as a senior constituent services coordinator with issues including veterans and social security benefits, immigration and housing as well as energy and natural resources liaison from 2008 – 2010; and participated as a member of the Hawaii Energy Policy Forum.

He is a current and active Board member for the following Boards; Hawaii Academy of Recording Arts, Hawaii Hunter Education Program, DLNR, State of Hawaii, Volunteer Instructor, Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club Member, Kualoa-He'eia Ecumenical Youth (KEY) Project, Holunape, Na Hoku Hanohano award winning band, Group leader.

Kekoa will bring to the Board of Directors valuable leadership, and business experience. He is an accomplished professional who will be a great asset to the board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

April 10, 2014

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON GM 619

Confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation,
Gubernatorial Nominee KEKOA KALUHIWA

Room 229
2:45 PM

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

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,832 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

Hawaii Farm Bureau stands in strong support Governor Abercrombie's nomination of Kekoa Kaluhiwa to the ADC Board of Directors.

Mr. Kaluhiwa's diverse background and experience would be invaluable to ADC as they continue to fulfill their mission to acquire, and manage in partnership with farmers, ranchers, and aquaculture groups, selected high-value lands, water systems, and infrastructure for commercial agricultural use and to direct research into areas that will lead to the development of new crops, markets, and lower production costs.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau is pleased to support the nomination Kekoa Kaluhiwa to the Agribusiness Development Corporation Board of Directors.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: jasonmoniz73@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for GM619 on Apr 10, 2014 14:45PM*
Date: Tuesday, April 08, 2014 6:56:49 PM

GM619

Submitted on: 4/8/2014

Testimony for AGL on Apr 10, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jason Moniz	Hamakua County Farm Bureau	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: gottlieb@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for GM619 on Apr 10, 2014 14:45PM*
Date: Wednesday, April 09, 2014 11:46:08 AM

GM619

Submitted on: 4/9/2014

Testimony for AGL on Apr 10, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Gottlieb	Hawaii Cattlemen's Council	Support	No

Comments:

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April 8, 2014

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY OF DAWN N.S. CHANG, PRINCIPAL OF KU'IWALU CONSULTING

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 619 (GM619)

GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, **KEKOA KALUHIWA**
Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation

The Honorable Clarence Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

I strongly SUPPORT the nomination of Kekoa Kaluhiwa for appointment to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation. I have personally and professionally known Mr. Kaluhiwa for several years.

Mr. Kaluhiwa is a native Hawaiian whose roots run deep from Windward, O'ahu. He is a graduate of Kamehameha Schools and holds degrees from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa as well as the University of Washington. Kekoa has demonstrated a strong commitment to public service as he sits on several boards, including the Kāne'ōhe Neighborhood Board and we both serve as board members for Kualoa-He'eia Ecumenical Youth Project. I have seen firsthand the heart, commitment and dedication that he devotes into making sure that everything is done in a pono way. He has had a great mentor serving under Senator Daniel K. Akaka for 11 years.

Kekoa's experience with renewable energy and community affairs has given him a great appreciation for balancing renewable energy and sustainable agriculture. Much of the available lands for large scale renewable energy projects are on agriculture lands. His expertise and experience will be a great asset to the Board of ADC as it faces the challenges involving finding opportunities to promote sustainable agriculture and renewable energy in a pono way that is sensitive to the cultural and community concerns. His reputation and character are above reproach.

I respectfully ask that Kekoa Kaluhiwa's nomination receive the consent of your committee and be forwarded to the full Senate for confirmation. I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on Mr. Kaluhiwa's nomination.

Respectfully submitted,

DAWN N.S. CHANG
Principal

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

**THE HONORABLE CLARENCE K. NISHIHARA, CHAIR
THE HONORABLE RONALD D. KOUCHI, VICE CHAIR**

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 619: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i State Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, KEKOA KALUHIWA, for a term to expire 6-30-2018.

Testimony in Support

By

P. Roy Catalani

Vice President, Young Brothers, Limited

April 10, 2014, 2:45 pm, Conference Room 229

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Governor's Message 619 submitting Governor Abercrombie's nomination of **Kekoa Kaluhiwa to the Hawai'i State Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation (the Board)**. **We submit this testimony in support of Mr. Kaluhiwa's nomination.**

Administratively attached to the Hawai'i State Department of Agriculture, the Board's mission is "to acquire and manage in partnership with farmers, ranchers and aquaculture groups selected high-value lands, water systems and infrastructure for commercial agricultural use and to direct research into areas that will lead to the development of new crops, markets and lower production costs. Mr. Kaluhiwa's extensive background in both the public and private sector aptly prepares him to participate, as a Board member, in that partnership with the agricultural and aquaculture communities.

Starting first as an intern, Mr. Kaluhiwa went on to become Executive Assistant to U.S. Senator Daniel K. Akaka for 11 years. In that capacity, he served as a liaison on energy and natural resource matters and as a member of the Hawai'i Energy Policy Forum. He continues his community involvement as a board member of the Kualoa-He'eia Ecumenical Young Project, or KEY; he is also a past member of the Kāne'ohe Neighborhood Board. Mr. Kaluhiwa understands the interface between government and private entities. As its Director of External Affairs, he represented First Wind Energy, the largest renewable energy provider in Hawai'i, in government, community, and media relations matters. Currently as principal of Kuano'o Communications, he assists private clients in government and public relations.

We believe this background will make Mr. Kaluhiwa a valued and productive member of the Board and 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 619.



Ko`olau Foundation

P. O. Box 4749
Kane`ohe, HI 96744

April 9, 2014

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM619
Appointment of Kekoa Kaluhiwa – Agribusiness Development Corp.

To: Chair Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
And Members, Agriculture Committee

From: Mahealani Cypher
Ko`olau Foundation Director

Re: Recommendation of Kekoa Kaluhiwa's Appointment to the ADC

Aloha Senator Nishihara and Distinguished Members of your Committee:

The Ko`olau Foundation strongly recommends the appointment of Kekoa Kaluhiwa to serve on the board of directors for the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Kekoa is part of an extended island family of farmers and fishermen, people who understand the need for balanced decisions when it comes to sustainability and progress. He himself has an impressive record of service in dealing with public matters as a former staff member of Senator Daniel Akaka, but we were equally impressed with his work to collaborate with the Kahuku community during his time with First Wind, Inc.

We definitely feel that he will be an asset to your board of directors for ADC, and urge your confirmation of his appointment.

Mahalo for your consideration of our recommendation.

Me kealoha pumehana.



KO`OLAUPOKO HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB

April 9, 2014

TO: SEN. CLARENCE NISHIHARA, Chair / And Members
Committee on Agriculture

FROM: ALICE P. HEWETT, President
Ko`olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club

SUBJECT: G.M. 619, Relating to the Appointment of Kekoa Kaluhiwa
To the Board of the Agribusiness Development Corporation

Aloha, Senator Nishihara and Members of this Committee:

On behalf of the Ko`olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club, we offer our strong support for the appointment of Kekoa Kaluhiwa to serve on the board of directors for the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

The Ko`olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club represents the communities in the nine ahupua`a around Kane`ohe bay. Among the important resources of this area are the rich farmlands that are now in the process of being restored to productivity, from Kane`ohe to Kualoa. Agriculture and the economic benefits and/or concerns relating to it are of key interest to our people.

In our view, Kekoa Kaluhiwa brings a healthy knowledge and awareness of communities, not just because of his history of working with the public and with developing new enterprises, but also because he is kupa`aina – grassroots – connected to the lands of Hawai`i and able to provide the ADC board with his insights to help them balance the issues and make wise decisions in the future.

We urge your committee to approve his confirmation and to recommend so to the full Senate.

Mahalo for this opportunity to offer our mana`o.

The Ko`olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club was established in 1937 and is a not-for-profit community organization dedicated to preserving and perpetuating the history, heritage and culture of Native Hawaiians. Its membership is open to people of Hawaiian ancestry and those who are "Hawaiian at heart".

P. O. Box 664 * Kaneohe, HI 96744 * Ph. (808) 235-8111 * www.koolaupokohcc.org



TESTIMONY OF
CAROL J. GRANT
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
FIRST WIND ENERGY, LLC

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 619
NOMINATION OF KEKOA KALUHIWA
TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

TO: The Honorable Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chairman
The Honorable Senator Ronald Kouchi, Vice Chairman
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support** of GM 619, the nomination of Kekoa Kaluhiwa to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

I've had the pleasure of working with Kekoa Kaluhiwa during the nearly three years he served as First Wind's Director of External Affairs in Hawai'i. In that role, Kekoa led our policy, community engagement, and outreach related to our wind projects on Maui and O'ahu. Prior to coming to First Wind, Kekoa spent 11 years working in the office of The Honorable U.S. Sen. Daniel Akaka where he also worked on constituency issues including veterans and social security benefits, immigration and housing.

Kekoa's collaborative style enabled him to bring together community leaders, residents, and project stakeholders in productive conversations. His expertise in working with policymakers and stakeholders combined with his cultural knowledge and extensive experience with constituencies gave him a respected voice in the state's renewable energy industry.

Additionally, I know firsthand that Kekoa has a deep and steadfast commitment to Hawai'i and to improving the lives of its people. As he has demonstrated throughout his career, I am confident that he brings to everything he does a dedication to grow the state's economy, support the Hawaiian culture, and make Hawai'i a better place for future generations.

With regard to the mission of the Agribusiness Development Corporation to maximize agribusiness opportunities, Kekoa understands the importance of Hawai'i's sustainable future and knows how to effectively communicate its importance with community members, stakeholders, and policymakers. He embodies aloha and integrity and will serve on this board with distinction.

Mahalo for your consideration.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: kamakane73@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for GM619 on Apr 10, 2014 14:45PM*
Date: Monday, April 07, 2014 2:05:50 PM

GM619

Submitted on: 4/7/2014

Testimony for AGL on Apr 10, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kama Hopkins	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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April 8, 2014

The Honorable Clarence Nishihara
Chairman
State Capitol, Room 229
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Testimony in Support of GMR619, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corp, Gubernatorial Nominee, KEKOA KALUHIWA, for a term to expire 6-30-2018.

Dear Chairman Nishihara and members of the Committee:

Thank you very for giving me the opportunity to testify in support of the confirmation of Kekoa Kaluhiwa. My name is Denise Hayashi Yamaguchi and I am the Executive Director of the Hawaii Ag and Culinary Alliance and the Hawaii Agricultural Foundation.

I have known Kekoa Kaluhiwa since he returned to Hawaii after working for Senator Daniel K. Akaka in Washington, DC. His past experience in government and now as a private consultant for a number of shipping companies will help the Agribusiness Development Corp as it moves forward on a number of initiatives to support local farmers. Kekoa is also a very skilled musician which has taken him around the world to promote Hawaii and our culture. As a well-rounded individual, he brings a depth of knowledge and expertise to the board that will serve the Agribusiness Development Corp well.

Sincerely,

Denise Hayashi Yamaguchi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: cedric@alignmarketingllc.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM619 on Apr 10, 2014 14:45PM
Date: Tuesday, April 08, 2014 1:32:30 PM

GM619

Submitted on: 4/8/2014

Testimony for AGL on Apr 10, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cedric Duarte	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I have known Mr. Kaluhiwa for over 20 years and worked with him professionally on various projects for the last 5. I recommend him without reservation for the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC).

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: jamcllu@monsanto.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for GM619 on Apr 10, 2014 14:45PM*
Date: Tuesday, April 08, 2014 8:02:24 PM

GM619

Submitted on: 4/8/2014

Testimony for AGL on Apr 10, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joe McClure	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: rhcabral@rhomac.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for GM619 on Apr 10, 2014 14:45PM*
Date: Wednesday, April 09, 2014 6:17:51 AM

GM619

Submitted on: 4/9/2014

Testimony for AGL on Apr 10, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randy Cabral	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: bbrooks@haleakalaranch.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM619 on Apr 10, 2014 14:45PM
Date: Wednesday, April 09, 2014 6:28:02 AM

GM619

Submitted on: 4/9/2014

Testimony for AGL on Apr 10, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Brooks	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please approve the appointment of Kekoa Kahuhina to the ADC board.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: richard@hamakuasprings.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM619 on Apr 10, 2014 14:45PM
Date: Wednesday, April 09, 2014 7:28:11 AM

GM619

Submitted on: 4/9/2014

Testimony for AGL on Apr 10, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Richard Ha	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I highly recommend Kekoa Kaluhiwa to the board of the ADC. Having worked for First Wind, Kekoa brings a unique energy perspective to the ADC board. He also will contribute a Hawaiian perspective to the board. Both very valuable perspectives. I know Kekoa through my involvement in energy issues. Agriculture and Energy are inextricably tied. I highly recommend Kekoa for the ADC board

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: brian@hfbf.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for GM619 on Apr 10, 2014 14:45PM*
Date: Wednesday, April 09, 2014 1:19:50 PM

GM619

Submitted on: 4/9/2014

Testimony for AGL on Apr 10, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Miyamoto	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: hawaiifish@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM619 on Apr 10, 2014 14:45PM
Date: Wednesday, April 09, 2014 2:04:17 PM

GM619

Submitted on: 4/9/2014

Testimony for AGL on Apr 10, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ronald Weidenbach	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Kekoa Kaluhiwa brings broad natural resource management experience to the ADC Board from his years of national experience with Senator Akaka, and experience with the integration of renewable energy production and agriculture from his experience with First Wind. This understanding of integrated natural resource management and agriculture will be critical for Board's management and the oversight of ADC's mission and the economic success and survival of ADC's tenants going forward.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: c@capsun.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM619 on Apr 10, 2014 14:45PM
Date: Wednesday, April 09, 2014 4:13:15 PM

GM619

Submitted on: 4/9/2014

Testimony for AGL on Apr 10, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
capsun	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Chair and Members, I am in strong support of Mr. Kaluhiwa's nomination to the ADC board. I have known him as a colleague and friend and am confident that he will serve the ADC and the people of Hawaii well in this role. Mahalo!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: pwiederoder@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM689 on Apr 10, 2014 14:45PM
Date: Wednesday, April 09, 2014 4:41:17 PM

GM689

Submitted on: 4/9/2014

Testimony for AGL on Apr 10, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Peter Wiederoder	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support the nomination of Jerry Ornellas. He has been a strong leader for Agriculture on Kauai.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: jreppun@keyproject.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM619 on Apr 10, 2014 14:45PM
Date: Wednesday, April 09, 2014 6:39:26 PM

GM619

Submitted on: 4/9/2014

Testimony for AGL on Apr 10, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John L. Reppun	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Chairs Nishihara and Kouchi/Agriculture Committee members:
Please accept my strong support for Kekoa Kaluhiwa, Gubernatorial Nominee to the Agribusiness Development Corporation, for a term to expire in 2018. I will begin with my personal bias - having known Kekoa for a number of years and his extended family for a lifetime. Kekoa also serves on KEY Project's Board of Directors, the non-profit organization for which I have worked for 30 years and that I have headed, as Executive Director for the past decade. I the time that I have had working closely with Kekoa he has demonstrated all the values that I hold highest: integrity, committment, Aloha and fairness and a wonderful sense of community wherever his endeavors carry him. I am well aware of his involvement in the past with, for example, wind energy development where he demonstrated tremendous skill with working through the questions and challenges always out there with developments. He fielded questions with candor and honesty that came from all sectors, private and public, along the way to ensuring that proposed wind generation plants were both acceptable to the communities in which they were placed and that there was care for environmental, economic, cultural and lifestyles affected. He did so with a style that encourages input and careful consideration - a style that I have also witnessed in his selfless service to our non-profit organization over the past few years (a volunteer/non-compensated position). In the latter capacity, Kekoa is a leader and team player at all times, engaging others in healthy discourse along the way while never shying away from shouldering the work involved. I am sure that he will bring the same skills, positive and respectful attitude to the postion under consideration...and will serve the State of Hawaii well. I urge your committee's full support in this matter. Mahalo, John L. Reppun Lifetime member of the Windward Oahu community Ph: 239-5777 (wk)

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