

# GM620 Testimony

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to  
the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness  
Development Corporation, Gubernatorial  
Nominee, JOAN NAMKOONG, 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. 620  
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS OF THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION,  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, JOAN NAMKOONG,  
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 Joan Namkoong to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation. Joan has a background as a food writer and educator on all things food in Hawaii.

Joan is a supporter of local agriculture through written articles, organization of farmers' markets and advocacy for local farmers and their products. She is a former small business owner, who successfully ran The Complete Kitchen 1976-1992, the first retailer of kitchenware in Hawaii with stores at Kahala Mall and Ala Moana Center.

As the food editor for the Honolulu Advertiser 1994-2001, she reported on emerging food trends in Hawaii including Hawaii Regional Cuisine and the development of diversified agriculture following the shut down of sugar as well as wrote many stories that supported the many food crops and farmers that have made their way into restaurants and into the consumer community.

Joan cofounded the Kapiolani Community College (KCC) farmers' market in 2003 which led to the emergence of other farmers' markets sponsored by the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF) on Oahu and the Big Island.

Joan is the author of several books including The Hawaii Farmers' Market Cookbook Vol. I and II, Family Tradition in Hawaii, Go Home, Cook Rice, and most recently, Food Lover's Guide to Honolulu. She is a current and active Board member for the following Boards; Hawaii Culinary Education Foundation, Hawaii Cattle Producers Coop 2008-2014, the Association of Food Journalists and Organizer of Les Dames D'Escoffier, Hawaii Chapter, international professional organization for women in the culinary industry.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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**GM620**

Submitted on: 4/8/2014

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Randall Francisco	Kauai Chamber of Commerce	Support	No

Comments:

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April 10, 2014

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

**TESTIMONY ON GM 620**

Confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation,  
Gubernatorial Nominee JOAN NAMKOONG

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 Joan Namkoong to the ADC Board of Directors.**

Ms. Namkoong is a food enthusiast, a freelance food writer and former food editor for the Honolulu Advertiser. She has been writing about the Hawaii food scene for over a dozen years and has been instrumental in the growth of farmers' markets on Oahu and Hawaii Island. This includes the Hawaii Farm Bureau's KCC Farmers' Market, which many credit with the explosion of Hawaii's farmers' market movement.

Ms. Namkoong is the author of several books including *Family Traditions in Hawaii*, *Go Home, Cook Rice*, and most recently, *Food Lover's Guide to Honolulu*. She also authored and edited *HFB's Farmers' Market Cookbooks (Volumes 1 & 2)*.

In addition to her involvement with the Hawaii Farm Bureau, Ms. Namkoong also serves as a Board member on the Hawaii Culinary Education Foundation and is a Board member of the Hawaii Cattle Producers Coop.

Ms. Namkoong's commitment to Hawaii's agricultural industry and culinary background makes her a perfect candidate as a Director on the Agribusiness Development Corporation's Board of Directors. I am pleased to support the confirmation of Joan Namkoong.

Please confirm Joan Namkoong to the Hawaii the Agribusiness Development Corporation Board of Directors.

Thank you!



## Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

P O Box 437199 Kamuela HI 96743

Phone (808) 885-5599 • Fax (808) 887-1607

e-mail: [HCattlemens@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:HCattlemens@hawaii.rr.com)

### SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Thursday April 10, 2014 2:45 p.m. Room 229

### **GM 620 JOAN NAMKOONG NOMINATION**

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

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

My name is Alan Gottlieb, and I am a rancher and 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 620, the nomination of Joan Namkoong to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Joan is a freelance newspaper reporter and former food editor for the Honolulu Advertiser. Joan helped start the Hawaii Farm Bureau's KCC Farmers' Market. Joan authored and edited HFB's Farmers' Market Cookbooks (Volumes 1 & 2). Joan has also served on the Board of The Hawaii Cattle Producers Cooperative for six year, where she has been a valuable asset.

Thank you for giving us this opportunity to testify in strong support of the nomination for Joan Namkoong.

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**GM620**

Submitted on: 4/8/2014

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
David S. De Luz, Jr.	Kukaiau Ranch, LLC	Support	No

Comments:

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**GM620**

Submitted on: 4/9/2014

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Clyde Fukuyama	Matsuda-Fukuyama Farms, Inc.	Support	No

Comments:

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**GM620**

Submitted on: 4/8/2014

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Hawaii's Agricultural Partnerships	4 Ag Hawaii Non Profit 501 [c] [3]	Support	No

Comments:

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802 Mapunapuna Street ~ Honolulu, HI 96819 ~ Phone: (808) 538-7051 ~ Fax: (808) 523-7646

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April 8, 2014

TESTIMONY BEFORE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,  
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 620, NOMINATING JOAN NAMKOONG TO THE  
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BOARD.

Chairman Nishihara and Members of the Agriculture Committee:

It is my great pleasure to endorse the Governor's nominee, Joan Namkoong, to the Board of Agribusiness Development Corporation. I have known Joan for many years and respect both her professionalism and dedication to sharing her time and talents with almost anyone with an interest in food and farming. Most people know and recognize her for the articles she wrote as Food Editor for the Honolulu Advertiser for many years. She did extensive research and offered ideas and stories that included interesting tidbits or historical information that offered more than a recipe. She strived to share a part of Hawaii and the rich, diverse history of our people and food cultures.

Joan is literally a treasure trove of information on culinary education, local food trends, farmers' markets, and cookbooks. She not only collects cookbooks, she has written several herself that preserve cultural and historical practices for future generations to appreciate and embrace. Joan not only talks about supporting farmers, she established the hugely popular KCC Farmers Market, along with other markets, including rejuvenating the Farmers' Market in Kamuela where she moved there several years ago. Rather than sitting on the sidelines bemoaning the lack of local beef, she works with local ranchers to expand their production and their markets. A longtime advocate for culinary programs in the state, she has spent endless hours securing and arranging for chefs and other food experts to come to Hawaii to teach several classes to culinary students. Being in the middle of the Pacific, without such efforts, our students would not have the opportunities to meet or learn from experts who offer insights into the many aspects of the food business.

Joan has been a "foodie" long before that term became popular. She has always had an interest in all aspects of food and travels the world to learn everything she



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can. Her interest in food led her and a friend to open the first gourmet kitchenware stores known as The Complete Kitchen at Kahala Mall and Ala Moana Center.

The best way to describe Joan is she is not a talker, she is a doer. She works tirelessly and devotes much time to projects she is involved in and expects nothing in return except to witness the advancement of Hawaii's farming and food industry become more competitive globally and to make Hawaii more sustainable. To steal an old campaign adage, Joan is very quiet and effective. She is action oriented, innovative, passionate and committed.

I humbly ask that this committee confirm Joan's nomination to the Agribusiness Development Corporation as she will be a great asset on the Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer my comments.

*Tish Uyehara*  
Tish Uyehara  
Director of Marketing



GM 620, Joan Namkoong  
For Board of Directors, Agribusiness Development Corporation  
Senate AGL Confirmation Hearing  
Thursday, April 10, 2014 – 2:45 pm  
Room 229

Testimony by: Larry Jeffs

Position: Support

Sen. Nishihara and Members of the Senate AGL Committee:

My name is Larry Jeffs, co-owner of Sugarland Growers, Inc., a family-run business with farms on Oahu and Molokai. I have been a farmer in Hawaii for more than 35 years and have been actively involved in organizations that support Hawaii's farmers, including serving as a Board member of the Hawaii Farm Bureau.

Joan Namkoong is well known to the general public as a former food editor of the Honolulu Advertiser, author and free lance writer of local food and Hawaii agriculture. She and Dean Okimoto of Nalo Farms are the founders of the Hawaii Farm Bureau's KCC Saturday Farmers Market (2003), which has become one of the most popular Farmers' Market in the State. She has an extensive network and understanding of farmers and ranchers in Hawaii.

Joan Namkoong's unique qualifications will be an asset to the Agribusiness Development Corporation as it seeks to fulfill some of its broader purposes to move agriculture forward such as (HRS 163D-4) (10) Assist agricultural enterprises by conducting detailed marketing analysis and developing marketing and promotional strategies to strengthen the position of those enterprises and to better exploit local, national, and international markets; (11) Carry out specialized programs designed to develop new markets for Hawaii agricultural products; (12) Receive, examine, and determine the acceptability of applications of qualified persons for allowances or grants for the development of new crops and agricultural products, the expansion of established agricultural enterprises, and the altering of existing agricultural enterprises;

Your support of Joan Namkoong's appointment to the Agribusiness Development Corporation is strongly urged. I can be reached at 688-2892 if you have any questions. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sugarland Growers Inc.  
P.O. Box 27, Kunia, Hawaii 96759  
Tel: (808) 688-2982 Fax: (808) 682-2894

April 8, 2014

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

RE: Testimony in Support of GMR620, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corp, Gubernatorial Nominee, JOAN NAMKOONG, 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 Joan Namkoong. 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 Joan Namkoong for many years and she has always supported local farmers and chefs. Along with Dean Okimoto she had the vision to create the first farmers' market in the state at Kapiolani Community College. In addition, I have known here as a board member for the Hawaii Culinary Education Foundation which works with students to further their knowledge about culinary arts. She will bring a depth of knowledge and expertise to the board that will serve the Agribusiness Development Corp well.

Sincerely,

Denise Hayashi Yamaguchi

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**GM620**

Submitted on: 4/8/2014

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michelle Galimba	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Joan Namkoong will be an excellent board member for ADC.

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**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for GM620 on Apr 10, 2014 14:45PM\*  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 08, 2014 8:23:37 AM

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**GM620**

Submitted on: 4/8/2014

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Duane K. Okamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Tuesday, April 8, 2014

**Testimony in Support of GM620: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, JOAN NAMKOONG, for a term to expire 6-30-2018**

**Committee Chair Senator Clarence K. Nishihara and Members of the Committee,**

I have known Joan Namkoong for over 40 years, as a co-worker, an employer and friend. I have watched her development through the years in her roles as a small business owner (The Compleat Kitchen with locations in Ala Moana Shopping Center and Kahala Mall), a prime mover in developing farmers markets on Oahu and Hawaii Island, as a food writer (food editor for the Honolulu Advertiser and author of seven books), and serving on the board of directors of the Hawaii Cattleman's Association.

Joan possesses a broad knowledge of Hawaii's agricultural and cultural history. She is acquainted with many of the food producers in Hawaii and has a deep understanding of the challenges of local food production. Such is her combination of talents, knowledge, relationships and sensitivities that she would, from day one be an asset to the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

It is without reservation that I support Ms. Namkoong's confirmation to the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Bonar

Robert A. Bonar  
65-1245 Opelo Rd.  
Kamuela, Hawii 96743

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**GM620**

Submitted on: 4/8/2014

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dean J. Okimoto	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: My name is Dean J.Okimoto, President of Nalo Farms, and former President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, and I would like to give testimony in strong support of Joan Namkoong to be on the board of the Agribusiness Development Corporation. I have known Joan for about 20 years, since she was a food writer at the Advertiser, and she has always had a passion for agriculture and food. She was one of the first promoters of buying local, and was the driving force behind starting the enormously popular KCC Farmers Market. She prompted me into starting the market and without that today, I truly believe there would be no Farm Bureau, as it is a key component in making Farm Bureau fiscally solvent. She would be a huge asset to ADC, as she still has the passion to help farmers be viable, and her ideas on value added farm products have helped many farmers in the past. She is a progressive and innovative thinker and can help ADC, in their many projects to move agriculture forward. Therefore, I strongly recommend and support her nomination for this position.

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**GM620**

Submitted on: 4/8/2014

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alex Franco	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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April 8, 2014

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair  
Hawaii State Senate

Hearing: Thursday, April 10, 2014, at 2:45 p.m.

Measure: GM 620. Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, JOAN NAMKOONG, for a term to expire 6-30-2018.

Dear Senator Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation for Joan Namkoong for appointment to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Joan is a personal friend and since meeting her fifteen years ago, I have known her to be a person of quiet passion and determined ability. Her love of good food and Hawaii are evident in her many newspaper articles and cookbooks, but perhaps no more so than in her co-founding of the Kapiolani Community College (KCC) farmers market. The farmers market was Joan's vision to bring fresh, local produce and the farmer and the rancher closer to people in the community. Her vision was realized and today the KCC farmers market is a vibrant, thriving gathering place for local residents and visitors alike. Joan has been instrumental in the development of farmers markets and in the movement to buy local, creating greater awareness and appreciation for Hawaii agricultural producers and their businesses.

Joan's knowledge of agriculture, her sincere commitment and support of Hawaii's agricultural diversity and her ability to bring people and ideas together to collaborate and create solutions are qualities I believe would be valuable to the Agribusiness Development Corporation. I, therefore, support Joan Namkoong's nomination to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Faye W. Kurren". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Faye W. Kurren

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**GM620**

Submitted on: 4/8/2014

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alan Takemoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Chair Nishihara and committee members: I support the nomination of Ms. Joan Namkoong to the ADC board of directors. I've known Joan for a while and she has been actively supporting Hawaii's agriculture and promoting farm to table events. She will be a great addition to the ADC board. Thank you, Alan Takemoto

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**GM620**

Submitted on: 4/8/2014

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
John McHugh	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I have known Joan Namkoong for 20 years. She has an excellent understanding of the business of agriculture and the mission of the Agri-Business Development Corporation. I ask you to favorably consider her appointment to the Board of the ADC.

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**GM620**

Submitted on: 4/8/2014

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jason Moniz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**GM620**

Submitted on: 4/8/2014

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Joe McClure	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**GM620**

Submitted on: 4/9/2014

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Randy Cabral	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**GM620**

Submitted on: 4/9/2014

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
John Brooks	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please approve the appointment of Joan Namkoong to the board of ADC.

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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM620 on Apr 10, 2014 14:45PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 09, 2014 7:22:39 AM

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**GM620**

Submitted on: 4/9/2014

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Richard Ha	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I highly recommend Joan Namkoong to the ADC. Joan was long time food editor for the Honolulu paper. She has been involved in starting up the major farmers markets. She has also been continuously involved in locally grown produce culinary projects. She will bring a unique and valuable perspective to the ADC board. I highly recommend approval

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**GM620**

Submitted on: 4/9/2014

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Brian Miyamoto	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

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**GM620**

Submitted on: 4/9/2014

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ronald Weidenbach	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Joan Namkoong is very knowledgeable about local food issues, and this knowledge is critical to an understanding of the local food production opportunities that ADC will be positioned to help address going forward.

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**GM620**

Submitted on: 4/9/2014

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
James S, Greenwell	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I have served six years with Joan on the Board of the Hawaii Cattle Producers Co-op and appreciate so much her commitment to the success of local agriculture. She is also very knowledgeable in the field of marketing, a key element of any successful business endeavor

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**GM620**

Submitted on: 4/9/2014

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Chris Manfredi	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

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# HAWAII CATTLE PRODUCERS COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

PO Box 437199, Kamuela, HI 96743 . Phone (808) 885-5599 . Fax (808) 887-1607  
Email: [hicoop@hawaii ranchers.com](mailto:hicoop@hawaii ranchers.com)

April 9, 2014

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara  
Chair, Senate Committee on Agriculture

Re: Joan Namkoong

Dear Mr. Nishihara,

We are writing in strong support of Joan Namkoong's confirmation to the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC). We have found Joan to be knowledgeable of farm and ranch operations and experienced in marketing of local products.

Joan has served on HCPCA's Board as Market Committee Chair for six years (2008 to 2014). She jumped right in immediately and assisted coop ranch producers in developing and implementing its market programs that follow its vision of maximizing returns for its Hawaii Ranchers Ground Beef, Hawaii Born-mainland finished, and Veal programs. She was very instrumental in developing the cooperative's trademarked name of 'Hawaii Ranchers' that has proven to be an attractive market piece for chefs, distributors, retailers, and consumers.

In addition she is a freelance reporter and former food editor for the Honolulu Advertiser. Joan helped start the Hawaii Farm Bureau's KCC Farmers' Market and also assisted with the three farmer's markets in the Waimea area. She has authored and edited many cookbooks for the HFB's Farmers' Market and local chefs.

Joan has proven to be an excellent partner in the agriculture communities for farmers and ranchers and supports both large and small farmers and ranchers. She will prove to be a valuable asset to all that come in contact with her through duties that might be assigned.

If I can give further information in support, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Betty Spence  
General Manager



Senate Committee on Agriculture  
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair  
Senator Ronald Kouchi, Vice Chair

Hearing on April 10, 2014 at 2:45 pm

**GM 620:** Gubernatorial Nomination for **JOAN NAMKOONG** to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kouchi, and members of the Committee, I'm Brooks Takenaka, Assistant General Manager at the United Fishing Agency (aka Honolulu Fish Auction). Thank you for this opportunity to share my strong support for Joan Namkoong to the Board of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Although I'm in the fishing industry, Joan and I have collaborated on numerous projects as proponents for sustainability and our beliefs in supporting our local farmers, ranchers and fishermen.

Joan is a former small business owner – one that was successful and “ahead of its time”. She has organized and initiated farmers markets on Oahu and Hawaii; worked with the beef industry; has extensive knowledge of agriculture; authored of several books; writer for the Star Advertiser on local produce and other foods; and is a dedicated educator in the food industry. She also serves on the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Culinary Education Foundation that provides culinary education for students and professionals.

I've had the pleasure of working with the Hawaii Culinary Education Foundation in providing training to culinary students at community colleges across the state. The multi cultural nature of Hawaii translates into Hawaii's special culinary experience for our citizens and visitors alike. Joan has played a major role in developing programs and promoting the unique flavors of Hawaii.

The Agribusiness Development Corporation in advancing its mission and goals will benefit from Joan's expertise, the knowledge gained from her travels, and her dedication to and understanding of Hawaii's myriad agricultural issues. She will be an asset with her knowledge and collaborative efforts gained over the years.

I humbly ask for your support for her confirmation. Mahalo nui loa.

**TESTIMONY OF  
Gail A. Haruki  
2667 Tantalus Drive  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813**

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2014

Thursday, April 10, 2014  
Conference Room 220  
2:45 pm

TO THE HONORABLE CLARENCE K. NISHIHARA, CHAIR,  
HONORABLE RONALD D. KOUCHI, VICE-CHAIR  
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

GM No. 620 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, JOAN NAMKOONG, for a term to expire 6-30-2018

I am pleased to offer testimony **in strong support** of the nomination of Joan Namkoong, for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

I have known Ms. Namkoong for about 15 years. She has had an extensive career as a business owner, starting the popular Farmers Markets, and working with the beef industry, to name a few. Through these involvements, she is well qualified to serve on the Agribusiness Development Corporation's Board.

Most importantly, Ms. Namkoong is an individual of the highest personal integrity. She has a deep sense of caring for her family, her friends and her colleagues; she constantly demonstrates the highest of business ethics, and is an individual who I proudly refer to as a trusted friend.

Your favorable consideration would be greatly appreciated.