

GM 505

(1) **LEILYN KOEV, GM 505:** Why do you wish to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation?

My family has had a long history of farming in Hawaii, and I would like to continue what my Grandfather has left our family and to see it flourish and continue as farming was his passion. My grandfather was a fisherman and a farmer and my father a farmer as well. I feel serving on this Board will give me the chance to learn about the different types of agriculture and I hope that my experience with our farm could help the Board from a farmer's perspective. I hope to learn from the other board members diverse experience, take it back to my farm and implement techniques to continue expanding farming. I would like to build awareness of various farming operations and I believe this Board can teach me a lot in this aspect.

(2) How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation?

I believe the Board's position is to increase farming and agricultural activities based on the recent study which revealed such decline. It is a challenge in that the Board is trying to sustain potential farmers while ensuring that these farmers will provide an asset to the land they are receiving at a great value. It should be a win-win situation however I believe it is very difficult to find people of this generation who wish to farm and have the knowledge to pursue this endeavor. The Board must increase awareness and training for the younger generation of farmers to succeed. Farming has many new rules and guidelines (i.e. Food safety) which makes it very difficult for each farmer to change and/or to stay abreast of the many changes. With the help of ADC, I believe that the State could attract more interest in young farmers with the hopes of continuing and keeping the soils rich for agriculture and keeping local produce.

(3) Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise, or knowledge that would aid in your decision-making ability as a member of the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

This is a difficult question to answer as I am not your typical, "old-school" farmer with a lot of farming experience. I have sat through a few meetings and realized how little I know about land use and my scope of knowledge in farming is limited to hydroponic greenhouse tomatoes. With that being said, my experience with growing up and working on our family farm, I have specific skills which could be an asset for the projects that lay ahead. I have learned through first-hand experience what it takes for a small farm with limited amount of staff and income to go from a "family run business" to a farm corporation who has to adhere to new rules and regulations to keep up with the other farm grown products from the Continental US and globally. I was part of our company going from no food safety program to a certified food safety farm and packing house. To someone who is unfamiliar with farming, this may seem like an easy task, however when you go through and see what these small farms have to do to become food safety certified, the small farmer becomes discouraged and not willing to comply therefore we will have less local produce. Unfortunately these farms will be phased out as food safety is not an option, it is required, and I feel that if our farm was able to comply, so can they. We will lose many local products so long as these "old-time farmers" are pushed to the many regulations and we will have less people to farm thus less produce from Hawaii. I believe I could help with my firsthand knowledge that I gained from my farm.

(4) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?

I hope to be a part of the Board that helps to facilitate more local farmers to increase Agriculture for this State. It is my understanding that the ADC has many acres of good farm land including a potential packing house for those that farm. Having a centralized packing house where ideas are exchanged from the individual farmers will assist in producing food safe and quality products. This goes to the farming tenants as well. I would like to assist the Board in filling these lots and would be proud to be a part of sustaining agriculture in this State.

(5) Name three qualities that best describe you and that would make you stand out. How would these qualities benefit the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation?

1. I am very calm in nature and I do not get excited easily. This will assist in discussing controversial issues that may arise in the future board meetings.
2. I am willing to learn and very excited to learn more about Agriculture in this State.
3. I have good interpersonal skills and able to get along with many different types of people. I believe this is important when you sit on a board with many talents and experiences.

(6) Name one previous experience that would make you stand out. How would this benefit the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation?

I believe that my background prior to farming in the tourism industry will add to my farming experience. Always our state relies on tourism as well as agriculture. I believe that my sales experience and negotiation skills will be of use.

(7) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your service on the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?

As of this point, I do not foresee any possible conflicts of interest however should a conflict arise; I would address it to the Board and simply remove myself from the issue. Should the Board feel it is necessary for me to resign; I would be more than happy to do so as in the best interest of the ADC.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



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SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND AND AGRICULTURE

February 29, 2016
2:45 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224

GM NO. 505
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF
DIRECTORS OF THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, LEILYN KOEV

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on GM No. 505. The Department of Agriculture strongly supports this measure.

Ms. Leilyn Koev has over 10 years of working with the Kawamata Farms, LLC in Kamuela on the island of Hawaii. As the co-owner of Kawamata Farms, Leilyn has been in charge of staffing, production, and growing. She has also held a lead role in addressing food safety issues around the farm. With her many years of experience running the Kawamata Farms, LLC, Leilyn will be play a key role serving on the Board of the Agribusiness Development Corporation and serve Hawaii's agricultural community well.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure



DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



JAMES J. NAKATANI
Executive Director

STATE OF HAWAII
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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TESTIMONY OF JAMES J. NAKATANI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE

Monday, February 29, 2016
2:45 PM

GM 505 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Director of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, LEILYN KOEV, for a term to expire 6-30-2019.

Aloha Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

My name is James Nakatani, Executive Director of the Agribusiness Development Corporation (“ADC”). The ADC strongly supports Ms. Leilyn Koev’s nomination to serve as a Board of Director of the ADC.

Ms. Koev represents the next generation of farmers. She is currently the co-owner of Kawamata Farms and is responsible for formulating policy and managing various company operations and activities. Kawamata Farms is located in Kamuela, Hawaii, and is considered to be amongst the top local producers of premium tomatoes. Prior to working on the farm, Ms. Koev held numerous managerial positions where she obtained an extensive background in resource management.

As a representative of the next generation of farmers, Ms. Koev will bring a different perspective and insight to the discussion that will help complement the diverse backgrounds and experiences of other members already on the Board. We truly believe she will be a tremendous asset in moving Hawaii's agriculture forward and we ask for your support of Ms. Koev's appointment to serve as a member of the ADC Board of Directors

We appreciate the opportunity to testify.

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Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair
COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE
GM505

Dear Senators:

Aloha kākou. May this letter serve as testimony in support of KANOE WILSON for the consideration and confirmation as a commissioner to the LEGACY LAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION.

I have had the pleasure of working with Kanoe at two employment ventures. As a coworker at the University of Hawai'i – Kīpuka Native Hawaiian Student Center, Kanoe's work in curriculum & professional development with the faculty and staff was valuable. Her qualities included dedication, determination and support of projects and fellow workers.

As a colleague at my former employment with the Kamehameha Schools, Kanoe's work in both the Land Legacy 'Āina Ulu Hawai'i Island office and Kauhale Kīpaepae (PAI) education department supported and established the new direction for Kamehameha schools towards its current strategy of education excellence. Her qualities in these positions included positive facilitation of adverse viewpoints, confident community engagement, & patience and persistence.

Personally as a friend of eight years and fellow practitioner, Kanoe has been a good friend, a great supporter and an outstanding role model with clear leadership skills.

As a commissioner and advisor to the Board of Land and Natural Resources on proposed projects, **Kanoe Wilson's** enthusiasm and keen perceptions of Hawaiian cultural practices and politics related to 'āina (*environment*) and wai (*water*) will enhance and support the committee's future work positively.

Please support **Kanoe Wilson** as a new member of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Regards,

A. Kalei Nu'uhiwa, PhD candidate
Hawaiian Science & Cultural Consultant

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The Honorable Mike Gabbard

Chairman, Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

Hawaii State Capitol, Room 201

GM 505 - Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Board of Director of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Leilyn Koev, for a term to expire 6-30-2019.

Aloha, Senator Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

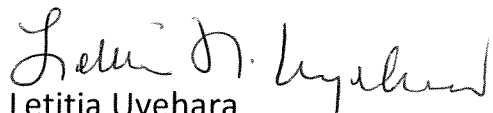
I write to support the appointment of Leilyn Koev to the Board of Director of the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC). Leilyn is a 3rd generation farmer in Kamuela on the Big Island. She is a very enthusiastic and capable young woman who works diligently on the family farm facing all the complexities and challenges that brings.

Kawamata Farms produces hothouse grown specialty tomatoes. They have been expanding their production, distribution, and loyal customer base over a decade. Leilyn is blessed to have a very progressive father who guides her and is always on the forefront of growing techniques and agricultural issues. They travel to California and countries such as Holland, Canada to bring home new ideas and skills that they implement on their farm. They trial new varieties, add new technology, and purchase equipment to improve the efficiency of their operation. They were one of the first small farms on the Big Island to be food safety certified and as a result, new market opportunities have opened for them including Costco as well as local chains such as KTA and Foodland. Kawamata Farm operates very professionally and is well poised to face any challenges that may arise.

Leilyn has been serving on the ADC Board for a few months on an interim basis and has demonstrated interest to learn about agriculture beyond her farm and to offer her experiences as a farmer. If appointed, she will be the only farmer on the Board so her insight will be valuable.

Leilyn represents a new generation of rare individuals who has a passion for the farm that her grandfather and father are now turning over to her. Her willingness to dedicate time to serve on the ADC Board is something that we should not turn away. I believe that both Leilyn and the Agribusiness Business Development Corporation will benefit from this alliance. I urge the committee to appoint Leilyn Koev to serve on the ADC Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this nominee.


Letitia Uyehara

Member, Agribusiness Development Corporation