

GM 791

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

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

April 18, 2016
2:50 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224

GM NO. 791
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF
DIRECTORS OF THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, LETITIA UYEHARA

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on GM No. 791. The Department of Agriculture strongly supports this measure.

Ms. Letitia Uyehara has provided vital expertise to the ADC Board highlighted by her many years of experience in the agricultural industry. Her guidance will continue to be crucial as Hawaii looks to increase its agricultural production with increased land and infrastructure. The Department strongly supports the confirmation of Ms. Uyehara to the ADC Board.

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
235 S. Beretania Street, Room 205
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: (808) 586-0186 Fax: (808) 586-0189

TESTIMONY OF JAMES J. NAKATANI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE

Monday, April 18, 2016
2:50 PM

GM 791 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, LETITIA UYEHARA, for a term to expire 6-30-2020.

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. Letitia Uyehara's appointment as a member to the ADC Board of Directors.

Ms. Uyehara has been a tremendous asset to the ADC Board. Her input and commitment has been instrumental in helping keep ADC and Hawaii's agriculture moving forward. Ms. Uyehara was first appointed as an at-large Board member and was soon tapped to serve as the Chairperson of the Board where she continues to serve today.

Ms. Uyehara currently is the director of marketing at Armstrong Produce, Ltd. Prior to her current position, she spent thirty years in state government where she served as the Department of Agriculture deputy director; and director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control of the Department of Health.

Ms. Uyehara's firsthand experience in the agriculture industry and extensive background in state government give her a clear understanding of the challenges farms and agribusinesses face on a daily basis. The ADC truly believes Ms. Uyehara experience and leadership will be beneficial and we ask for your support of her appointment to continue serving as a member of the ADC Board of Directors.

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 18, 2016

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND AND AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON GM 791

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board Of Directors Of The Agribusiness Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, LETITIA UYEHARA

Room 224
2:50 PM

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

I am Randy Cabral, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 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.

HFB is in strong support of the confirmation and reappointment of Letitia Uyehara to the Agribusiness Development Corporation Board of Directors.

Ms. Uyehara is a valued leader in Hawaii's Agricultural Industry and is well respected for her impressive credentials in public service, having served with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture as the Communications Officer and Deputy Director, and also with the Hawaii Department of Health as the Director of Environmental Quality Control and as a Hearing Officer in the Environmental Protection and Health Services Division.

Ms. Uyehara is currently the Director of Marketing and Special Programs with Armstrong Produce Ltd. where she continues to be actively involved in agricultural issues ranging from food safety to the future of agriculture in Hawaii. At Armstrong, Ms. Uyehara continues to support Hawaii's agricultural industry by helping to market and promote locally grown produce. She also developed a food safety and HACCP program for Armstrong's company operations which made them the first wholesale produce company to be food safety and HACCP certified.

Ms. Uyehara's extensive background and her years of 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 of Letitia Uyehara to the Agribusiness Development Corporation Board of Directors.



Meadow Gold Dairies



Written Testimony by: Glenn Muranaka
GM791, Letitia Uyehara
Confirmation to the Board of Directors of the
Agribusiness Development Corporation
Sen WLA Committee
Monday, April 18, 2016
Room 224

Chair Gabbard and Members of the Senate WLA Committee:

My name is Glenn Muranaka, President and General Manager of Meadow Gold Dairies. Our company has been in Hawaii since 1897—119 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.

Letitia Uyehara, "Tish" comes with a unique background and accomplishments directly related to Hawaii agriculture. Her experience as marketing director for Armstrong Produce Ltd, places her in contact with local farmers and customers of agricultural produce. As a former Deputy Director of Agriculture, she had oversight over a broad range of programs from plant pest control to marketing to irrigation systems. She is very astute in agricultural production from a policy and implementation perspective in both the government and private sector.

This broad range of experience and skills will enhance the Agribusiness Development Corporation to achieve greater vision and implementation of its services to help farmers.

Your support of Letitia Uyehara's confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation is appreciated. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. If you have any questions, please contact me at 944-5911.

KAWAMATA FARMS, LLC
66-1330 LALAMILO FARM ROAD
KAMUELA, HAWAII 96743
(808) 885-4701 (TEL) / (808) 885-7406 (FAX)

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF GM 791, CONFIRMATION OF LETITIA UYEHARA
TO THE BOARD OF THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

April 18, 2016

To the Honorable Senator Michael Gabbard and Members of the Senate Committee on
Water, Land and Agriculture:

I write in support of Ms. Uyehara's confirmation to the Board of the Agribusiness
Development Corporation (ADC). She has been involved in agriculture for nearly two
decades with experience both in the public sector as Deputy Director of the Hawaii
Department of Agriculture and in the private sector where she has been serving as the
Director of Marketing and Food Safety for Armstrong Produce.

She is a strong supporter of locally grown products and is one of our consistent customers
on Oahu, where Armstrong supplies many food service and retail clients including the
military commissaries. She understands what the farmers go through to get their produce
to market and assists us when we face new challenges.

As a strong proponent of food safety, she encouraged us to become food safety certified
many years ago and as a result, we are prepared to sell to a wide base of clientele that
demand certification and we are also prepared for the changes that the federal Food
Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) will bring, starting the end of this year.

We feel that Ms. Uyehara can help agriculture grow in Hawaii so we ask that you
confirm her to the ADC Board.

Thank you for your consideration,



Raymond Kawamata
President/Owner
KAWAMATA FARMS, LLC

Hawaii State Legislature

Senate Committee on Water, Land and Agriculture

Testimony in Support of Governor's Message

Confirming the Nomination of Letitia Uyehara

Board of Directors, Agribusiness Development Corporation

April 14, 2016, Room 224

Senator Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Hirako Farms, Inc. is a third generation vegetable farm located in Kamuela on the Big Island of Hawaii. We would like to express our support for the reconfirmation of Ms. Letitia Uyehara to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Ms. Uyehara's ability to draw on her vast work experiences in both the public and private sectors of our agricultural industry to effectively help guide the ADC is evidenced by its accomplishments since it was established in 1994. As its current chair, she will be able to continue to work on initiatives undertaken to assure a more sustainable industry in the future.

Thank you for allowing us to testify on behalf of Ms. Letitia Uyehara. We firmly believe her reappointment to a second term on the ADC Board of Directors will be most beneficial to its' fulfilling its' goals.

Roger Hirako, President



Hirako Farms, Inc.

P.O. Box 297

Kamuela, Hawaii 96743

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: alan.takemoto@monsanto.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM791 on Apr 18, 2016 14:50PM
Date: Friday, April 08, 2016 4:35:18 PM

GM791

Submitted on: 4/8/2016

Testimony for WLA on Apr 18, 2016 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Takemoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Chair Gabbard and committee members, I strongly support GM 791 that nominates Ms. Uyehara to the ADC. She has extensive knowledge about Hawaii's agriculture industry. Thank you for your consideration. Mahalo, Alan Takemoto

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

TESTIMONY OF ROBERT TOYOFUKU
IN SUPPORT OF THE NOMINATION OF LETITIA UYEHARA
TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION

April 18, 2016

To: Chairman Mike Gabbard and Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and
Agriculture:

My name is Bob Toyofuku and this testimony is being submitted in support of the nomination of Letitia Uyehara to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

I have known Leticia Uyehara for over 30 years and feel that she would be an excellent member of the Board of Directors. Leticia has an extensive background in agricultural issues and the Board will benefit from her experience in this area. She is also noted for her hard work, organizational skills, and her positive attitude. Leticia has always conducted herself with integrity and treated others fairly and in a professional manner. She has a reputation for being a decisive and straightforward person, as well as a creative thinker. She is very dedicated to community issues and I am confident that she will be a great asset to the Agribusiness Development Community and I wholeheartedly support her nomination.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Brian Miyamoto

April 18, 2016

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON GM 791

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, LETITIA UYEHARA

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Committee Members:

My name is Brian Miyamoto and I am writing in **strong support** for the confirmation and reappointment of Letitia Uyehara to the Agribusiness Development Corporation Board of Directors.

As the Director of Marketing and Special Programs with Armstrong Produce Ltd., Ms. Uyehara continuously supports Hawaii's farmers by promoting their locally grown produce. She was instrumental in developing a food safety and HACCP program for Armstrong Produce which made them one of the first wholesale companies to be food safety and HACCP certified in the state. She has also worked with the University of Hawaii to help establish a farmer outreach program to assist farmers in achieving greater food safety in their fields and packing areas.

Ms. Uyehara has years of experience in Hawaii's agricultural industry through public service, having served with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture as the Communications Officer and Deputy Director, with the Hawaii Department of Health as the Director of Environmental Quality Control, and as a Hearing Officer in the Environmental Protection and Health Services Division.

Ms. Uyehara's extensive background and her years of experience in government and the private sector make her a perfect candidate for continued service on the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation. I am pleased to support the nomination and reappointment Ms. Letitia Uyehara.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony.

THE FAMILY FARM, INC.

Certified Organic

Ph. (808) 963-6966

P.O. Box 5, Ninole, HI 96773

E-mail: chrisyuenz@hotmail.com

April 11, 2016

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF GM791, CONFIRMATION OF TISHA UYEHARA TO ADC

Sen. Gabbard and Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture:

I could not have been more pleased to hear that Gov. Ige had nominated Tisha Uyehara for a second term on the board of the Agribusiness Development Corporation. Her unique background, with years in government followed by years in business, makes her ideally suited for this role.

Tisha Uyehara has been the primary contact for our farm with Armstrong Produce for about a dozen years during which they have been the main buyer for our lychees. For a farmer selling a perishable, seasonal crop it's essential to have a wholesaler that will work hard to promote and sell the product, keep the farmer informed about trends in the market, and offer a fair price. Tisha has always done that and more. She and her company have made a strong commitment to trying to help and encourage local farmers.

Over the years, we've had many discussions about agriculture in Hawai'i. I've found her to be full of insights and understanding that go beyond the immediate business issues facing her company.

The State is fortunate that Tisha wants to continue her public service on the ADC. The Senate should confirm her to this second term on the board.

Yours truly,

Chris Yuen
President

April 12, 2016

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Committee on Water, Land and Agriculture
Hawaii State Senate

Dear Senator Gabbard:

I am writing to support the appointment and confirmation of Letitia Uyehara to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation which your committee will consider on April 18, 2016 (GM791).

Ms. Uyehara is a long time professional and personal friend for whom I have great respect, especially for her seasoned knowledge of agriculture issues in the State of Hawaii. I first became acquainted with her in the 1990s when she was the spokesperson for the Department of Agriculture and I was a food journalist for what was then the Honolulu Advertiser. She was always forthright in her communications and consistently had the best interests of the Department in mind.

In more recent years, I have known Ms. Uyehara as a passionate supporter of island farmers and food producers in her position at Armstrong Produce. She has always tried to make the connection between farmers and customers and has supported and encouraged farmers to be more innovative in their endeavors to produce food for the state.

With Ms. Uyehara's leadership, the Agribusiness Development Corporation is on track to becoming a valuable resource for farmers and the agriculture industry. ADC needs her to continue the projects that have been started (like the use of the Galbraith Lands on Oahu) and keep the momentum moving forward to realize more food production for Hawaii's people. Ms. Uyehara brings a wealth of understanding and experience of local agriculture to the ADC Board and a sincere interest in and support of island farmers and what they do.

I would urge you to confirm Ms. Uyehara's appointment to the ADC Board for a second term.

Sincerely,

Joan Namkoong
Food writer
Kamuela, Hawaii

**LARRY JEFTS FARMS, LLC
PO BOX 27
KUNIA, HAWAII 96759
(808) 688-2892**

**GM 791, Letitia Uyehara
Board of Directors of The Agribusiness Development Corporation
Senate WLA Committee
Monday, April 18, 2016
2:50pm
Conference Room 224**

**Written Testimony by: Larry Jeffs
Position: Support**

Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Senate WLA Committee:

I am Larry Jeffs, owner and operator of Larry Jeffs Farms, LLC, which is part of our family-run business of farms on Oahu and Molokai, under the administrative umbrella of Sugarland Growers, Inc. We have more than 35 years of Hawaii farm experience on Molokai and Oahu.

Consideration of Letitia Uyehara's renewal confirmation is strongly supported. She is a respected leader in Hawaii's agricultural industry, having served as the former Deputy Director and Communications Officer of the Department of Agriculture. She continues to work with agricultural producers as Director of Marketing at Armstrong Produce, where she was instrumental in making Armstrong Produce one of the first wholesalers to be food safety certified in Hawaii.

Ms. Uyehara knows the challenges of farm production and can look towards practical and effective ways to meet those challenges.

Your support of Letitia Uyehara's confirmation to the ADC Board of Directors is appreciated. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.



The Honorable Michael Gabbard
Chair, Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture
State Capitol, Rm.224
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Senator Gabbard:

This is prepared in response to questions posed regarding my appointment to the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC). I appreciate the opportunity to share my thought and ask for your support of my nomination to continue to serve on the ADC Board.

(1) Why do you wish to be a member of the Board of Directors of the agribusiness Development Corporation?

I have been privileged to serve on the Board of the Corporation and am seeking a second term on the Board. Everyone talks about Hawaii becoming more sustainable and reducing our reliance on imports, but the critical part of that equation is that Hawaii needs to grow more with greater economies of scale. Otherwise, very little will change. The purchase and preservation of lands at Whitmore (Galbraith) has presented a great opportunity for affordable ag lands to be available for farmers who have experience farming and want to expand their operations. It will certainly be an accomplishment for the State and ADC to put farmers on the land after several years of land preparation, infrastructure improvements, as well selection and training of farmers. I would truly like to see these efforts come to fruition.

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

I feel that we must be advocates for the growth of agriculture in Hawaii. We must support the farmers that grow food responsibly but we must also seek new and different ways to make agriculture more profitable, more exciting through opening new markets, developing new crops, and fostering growth of more value added products.

(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.

I have been blessed to have career opportunities that challenged me as well as helped me to grow both professionally and personally. My years at the Hawaii State Legislature were important in my understanding of the workings of the legislature. My tenure in the Department of Health, Office of Environmental Quality Control, taught me a lot about land use issues, the preparation, review and approval of environmental impact statements, balancing issues and negotiating outcomes. My many years at the Hawaii Department of Agriculture, culminating in serving as the Department's Deputy Director, gave me insights, networking opportunities with industry and understanding the issues facing agriculture. I currently serve as Marketing Director for Armstrong Produce which has allowed me to continue working with growers throughout the state and to have a more global understanding of what changes are taking place in agriculture. All these experiences have broadened my understanding of what it takes to survive in a global economy, and insights as to what might make Hawaii agriculture more successful.

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

I am confident that we will have approximately a dozen small farmers growing crops on Galbraith lands to help increase local food production within a few months. I am also hopeful that Galbraith can serve as template for other agricultural areas on the neighbor islands. I hope that farmers will succeed and thrive both in growing crops and developing value added products as well.

(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?

I am a good people person and communicate well with individuals from all walks of life.

I am proactive, open to change, watch trends, and embrace new technology that can help agriculture as well as life in general.

I am always willing to share knowledge and experiences to help others in different phases of their life or professional career.



The ADC Board members should be knowledgeable about agriculture, but also innovators, out of the box thinkers and decision makers. The qualities I possess will be helpful toward resolving issues and new challenges facing the Board.

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

Farmers come to me with ideas about what they want to grow or ask what they should grow. Based on sales of products and how much of a product is imported, I will offer suggestions by going over with them acreage requirements, growth timeline (pineapple takes 18 months vs. 6 weeks for green onions), soil and environmental conditions, financial requirements, as well as labor and equipment needs, etc. In the process of focusing and narrowing the field to what is possible, what the farmer is passionate about, what is doable, we come to work out what is realistic and unique to help the farmer carve out a plan for his future. I think my abilities compliment this kind of request which is needed on many Board issues.

(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?

I am hopeful that my professional experiences in the field of agriculture will actually enhance and help the Board with the challenges we will face as we forge ahead with new plans and new directions. If a conflict should arise, I would certainly recuse myself from the decision making process to avoid conflict.

If you have any further questions, please contact me at 808 216-6433.

Yours Truly,


Letitia Uyehara