

GM 792

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
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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

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

GM NO. 792
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF
DIRECTORS OF THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, DENISE ALBANO

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on GM No. 792. The Department of Agriculture strongly supports this measure.

Ms. Denise Albano has served on the ADC Board, providing crucial expertise for Hawaii's agricultural industry. As Hawaii looks to increase its agricultural production with increased land and infrastructure, Ms. Albano will provide a much needed perspective to the Board. The Department strongly supports the confirmation of Ms. Albano 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 792 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, DENISE ALBANO, 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. Denise Albano's appointment as a member to the ADC Board of Directors.

Ms. Albano has been a valuable asset to the ADC Board. With her background in resource management and problem solving, Ms. Albano brings a fresh perspective that has complemented the diversity of background and experiences of other ADC Board members.

Ms. Albano recently served as the President of Feed the Hunger Foundation, a non-profit organization that she co-founded whose mission is to eliminate poverty and hunger worldwide by using microfinance and technical assistance as a platform for food security and economic development. Prior to that, Ms. Albano served as campaign manager for The Nature Conservancy

Hawaii and executive director for various children and family organizations in California and Hawaii. The ADC truly believes Ms. Albano experience will be instrumental in helping keep ADC and Hawaii's agriculture moving forward 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.



HAWAII

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Sharon Stanbro
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Jon Wallenstrom
Forest City

Carol Wilcox
Author

**The Trust For Public Land's Testimony In Support of GM 792
Relating To Appointment of Denise Albano**
Senate Water, Land & Agriculture Committee, Conf. Room 224
Monday, April 18, 2016, 2:50 p.m.

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Nishihara and Committee Members:

The Trust for Public Land strongly supports GM 792 relating to the appointment of Denise Albano to the Board of Directors for the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC).

The Trust for Public Land has worked indirectly with Ms. Albano in her former position as co-founder of Feed The Hunger Foundation and its Hawaii program, "Food For Thought," which sought to improve food security in the islands. Feed The Hunger Foundation makes micro loans to entrepreneurs who are starting or expanding their small businesses. It loaned funds to farmers in Kunia, Wai'anae, and the Waimea Homestead Association. It partnered with others to establish farmers' markets that accepted food-stamps in low-income senior housing complexes in West Loch. It worked with the Waimanalo Market Co-op to introduce a consistent supply of affordable fresh produce to the area. The Foundation has invested in cultural, educational, and economic needs on the Windward side of O'ahu through the non-profit Kāko'o'Ōiwi which farms in He'eia.

Currently, Ms. Albano is working with the Department of Agriculture on ensuring that agricultural lands and farmers have secure and reliable sources of irrigation water.

Ms. Albano's dedication, work, and passion for the success of Hawaii's agricultural industry will be an asset to the ADC, and we urge you to confirm her nomination to the Board of ADC. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify. I regret that I cannot make attend the hearing in person due to a prior commitment.

Me ke aloha,

Lea Hong
Hawai'i State Director
Edmund C. Olson Trust Fellow



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: brian@hfbf.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for GM792 on Apr 18, 2016 14:50PM*
Date: Saturday, April 16, 2016 8:49:09 AM

GM792

Submitted on: 4/16/2016

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randy Cabral	Hawaii Farm Bureau	Support	Yes

Comments:

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.

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Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & AGRICULTURE
Monday, April 18, 2016 — 2:50 p.m. — Room 224

Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports GM 792, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Denise Albano, for a term to expire 6-30-2020

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

We are Murray Clay, Kyle Datta, and Amy Hennessey, the management team of the Ulupono Initiative, a Hawai'i-based impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life for the people of Hawai'i by working toward solutions that create more locally produced food; increase affordable, clean, renewable energy; and reduce waste. Ulupono believes that self-sufficiency is essential to our future prosperity and will help shape a future where economic progress and mission-focused impact can work hand in hand.

Ulupono strongly supports GM 792, which approves the confirmation of Denise Albano to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Ms. Albano has helped our local farmers and ranchers via her work providing low-cost financing through the Feed the Hunger Foundation. We have had the benefit of working with her and know that she has vast experience in understanding the challenges that farmers face. Throughout her years of experience she has developed deep expertise in evaluating agricultural business plans for feasibility and credit worthiness. This, combined with her experience offering technical assistance to agricultural businesses, will greatly benefit the Agribusiness Development Corporation in achieving its mission.

We are impressed with Ms. Albano's work and feel she would make a great member of the board of directors for the State Agribusiness Development Corporation. We look forward to working with her in the future.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Murray Clay
Managing Partner

Kyle Datta
General Partner

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



Amy Hennessey
Director of Communications



Meadow Gold Dairies



Written Testimony by: Glenn Muranaka
GM792, Denise Albano
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.

Denise Albano is someone who has built organizations based on strategic thinking, fund development and resource management. She is acknowledged as a team builder, problem solver and noted for her ability to work with culturally diverse staff and clientele. This can be seen in professional experiences such as President and co-founder of Feed the Hunger Foundation, Capital Campaign Manager for The Nature Conservancy Hawaii, and several social service organizations.

Her experiences and skills will help place more farmers on agricultural lands, and strengthen relationships needed to stimulate broad community support for farmers and local production.

Your support of Denise Albano'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.

925 Cedar Street P.O. Box 1880, Honolulu, Hawaii 96805 (808) 949-6161 (808) 944-5901 fax

From: [amy_agbayani](#)
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: [Denise Albano](#)
Subject: SUPPORT GM792 Albano WLA 4/18/16 @ 2:50pm HFCR Agbayani
Date: Friday, April 15, 2016 10:26:29 AM
Attachments: [GM 792 Denise Albano 2016.doc](#)
[datauri-file.png](#)



April 18, 2016 @ 2:50

To: Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and members of
the Senate Committee on Water, Land and Agriculture

From: Amy Agbayani, Co-Chair
Amy_agbayani@yahoo.com

Subject: Testimony in support of GM 792 Denise Albano to the
Board of Agribusiness Development Corporation.

I am honored to express strong and positive support for Denise Albano on behalf of the Hawaii Friends of Civil Rights (HFCR). HFCR seeks to promote the values of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for civil rights and social and economic justice. We support diversity and equal access for all. We believe government boards, such as the Board of Agribusiness Development Corporation should support these important goals and that Ms. Albano shares these goals and has relevant experience to be a valued member of this board.

I have known Denise Albano for a few years as a member of one of the committees of Feed the Hunger Foundation. Her vision and hard work as co-founder and President of Feed

the Hunger is very much appreciated because the Foundation has made a huge and positive impact locally, in other states and in other countries. She is recognized as a leader in micro financing to empower individual workers, low income families, business and non-profit organizations to build community, resources and social justice. She has had a long professional career working with youth, women and other groups who are economically disadvantaged. She understands the need to develop public policies for sustainability and equal access. I have been impressed with her leadership and ability to solve problems and obtain needed resources for the community. She has extensive experience with both the private sector as well as local and national government agencies. I am confident she will be able to be a very diligent member of the board. She is intelligent, has integrity and appreciates the history of our state and issues facing families, labor and agribusiness.

For over four decades, my professional responsibilities at the University of Hawai'i and my community work has been in the area of diversity and inclusion of groups traditionally excluded from higher education, management and policy making boards. It is with sincere pride that I endorse the nomination of Denise Albano because women and Filipinos are underrepresented in state policy-making boards and continue to be underpaid. Women represent half of humanity and Filipinos in Hawaii are the second largest ethnic group in the state but may represent about 5% of boards and

commissions.

I respectfully request the Senate support this nomination. I want to take this public opportunity to express my strong support for and appreciation to Ms. Albano for her commitment and service to the state.

April 15, 2016



Regarding:

General Measure 792

April 18, 2016

Hearing at 2:50pm, Water, Land and Agriculture

SUPPORT Confirming Denise Albano

Aloha to the Water, Land and Agriculture Committee,

I am writing you today in strong support of confirming Ms. Denise Albano to the Board of Agribusiness Development Corporation.

I have known Ms. Albano for many years and have seen her dedication and commitment to community here in Hawaii and abroad. It's both amazing and inspiring.

Among her accomplishment, Ms. Albano co-founded Feed The Hunger Foundation and its Hawaii program, "Food For Thought," to address food security in the islands. In addition, the Hunger Foundation makes loans to entrepreneurs who are starting or expanding their small businesses. Loans have been made to farmers in Kunia, Waianae, and the Waimea Homestead Association. They partner with others to establish new markets in low-income senior housing complexes in West Loch that accepts food stamps. They work with the Waimanalo Market Co-op to introduce a constant supply of fresh produce to this community. The Foundation has invested in cultural, educational, and economic needs through Kako'o 'Oiwi.

The aforementioned remarkable accomplishments speak to Ms. Albano's ability to identify needs and issues in the community and to work with, and work for, the community on addressing them.

I believe Ms. Albano's dedication and commitment to the success of Hawaii's agricultural industry will be an asset to the Agribusiness Development Corporation. I strongly support Ms. Albano's confirmation and look forward to her work on the ADC and her mission of increasing local food production in the islands.

Mahalo,
Ann Marie Kirk
Maunalua.net
Maunalua, O'ahu
amk@maunalua.net



April 13, 2016

Subject: GM 792, April 18, 2016 hearing at 2:50 PM, Water, Land and Agriculture.

Aloha Boards and Commissions:

My wife and I are owner operators of Shinsato Farm in Kahaluu, Oahu. We would like to express our whole hearted support of confirming Denise Albano to the Board of Directors for The Agribusiness Development Corporation.

As small hog farmers, we know full well the difficulties of protein production. We know that major changes are needed if we are to continue farming. We feel that Denise who is a forward looking and an "out of the box thinker", also believes that major changes are needed if farmers are to survive and to prosper. More importantly, she is a very good listener and has a desire to understand what we are up against. Denise has earned our respect and admiration.

Denise will be an asset to the Board and will give voice to ideas that will help us to keep on farming.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

Glenn Shinsato

Amy Shinsato

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: jeannine@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM792 on Apr 18, 2016 14:50PM
Date: Thursday, April 14, 2016 3:58:52 PM

GM792

Submitted on: 4/14/2016

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeannine Johnson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in strong support of confirming Denise Albano to the Board of the Agribusiness Development Corporation. Denise co-founded Feed The Hunger Foundation and its Hawaii program, "Food For Thought," to address food security in the islands. Food for Thought promotes sustainable and healthy food production by making a loan to entrepreneurs with otherwise limited or non-existent funding options to open or expand their businesses. Loans have been made to farmers in Kunia, Wai'anae, and the Waimea Homestead Association. In other words, they invest in people who want to make an impact, a change, not just for themselves but also for their community. Denise is the former Executive Director of several nonprofit organizations that provide services to marginalized youth and families. Her advocacy of at risk and homeless youth are inspiring, having developed services, educational and economic development programs for youth in California. Prior to that she developed and ran residential services for youth transitioning out of the juvenile justice system and with youth in the mental health system in Hawai'i. She also developed and implemented counseling and substance abuse prevention programs for at risk youth in the New York City public schools system. The Rotary Club of East Honolulu has also honored Denise with the "Kalama Award" for Business. The Kalama Awards honor outstanding professionals in Hawai'i that go above and beyond to share their knowledge with the purpose of accelerating community through excellence in business, health, education, and the arts. Please support Denise Albano to the Board of the Agribusiness Development Corporation. Mahalo. 'O au no me ka 'oia'i'o, Jeannine Johnson 5648 Pia Street Honolulu, HI 96821 Ph: 691-7261

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Consuelo Foundation
...giving hope...

April 7, 2016

Re: General Measure 792, hearing date April 18, 2016, 2:50pm
Water, Land, and Agriculture

Dear Boards and Commissions:

This letter is in support of confirming Denise Albano to the Board of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Denise Albano co-founded Feed The Hunger Foundation and its Hawaii program, "Food For Thought," to address food security in the islands. Feed The Hunger Foundation makes loans to entrepreneurs who are starting or expanding their small businesses. Loans have been made to farmers in Kunia, Waianae, and the Waimea Homestead Association. They partner with others to establish new markets in low-income senior housing complexes in West Loch that accepts food stamps. They work with the Waimanalo Market Co-op to introduce a constant supply of fresh produce to this community. The Foundation has invested in cultural, educational, and economic needs through Kako'o'Oiwi.

Her current work with the Department of Agriculture on ensuring water security for agriculture and farmers adds another opportunity to pursue her mission of increasing local food production.

Having known Ms. Albano for several years and being very familiar with her work, I believe she has a deep passion and dedication to Hawai'i's agricultural industry and will be a great asset to ADC. I had a privilege to travel with her to the Philippines for several days and collaborate with her on planning activities. I know that she has a firm grasp of issues related to human health and wellbeing, nutrition, food security and sustainability, and the politics of farming. Thus, I unequivocally support her nomination.

Please feel free to contact me if you have further questions.

Aloha,

Jon K. Matsuoka, Ph.D.
President and CEO
Consuelo Foundation



Consuelo Zobel Alger
Founder and Benefactress

Board of Directors

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Robert S. Tsushima

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Hoyt H. Zia

Jon K. Matsuoka
*President and
Chief Executive Officer*

Jonathan San Vuong
*Treasurer and
Chief Financial Officer*

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: joshua.stanbro@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM792 on Apr 18, 2016 14:50PM
Date: Friday, April 08, 2016 12:33:45 PM

GM792

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
Josh Stanbro	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I believe Denise Albano has an important perspective on agricultural issues for the state of Hawaii and support her reappointment to the ADC. Thank you.

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

**GM 792, Denise Albano
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 Denise Albano's renewal confirmation is strongly supported. She has made real her vision of increasing food security through co-founding and serving as president of Feed the Hunger Foundation, which provides loans and grants to micro-finance businesses and farmers for local food production and distribution. She joins other leaders in improving the local food system and offers a national and international perspective of the challenges and solutions to local farm production.

Her social services background, in which she developed or expanded existing San Francisco programs such as the YMCA of Richmond District, and Larkin Street Youth Services, demonstrates her resourcefulness and ability to network, plan and implement.

This combination of experiences and skills make her a valued asset to the ADC Board of Directors. Your support of Denise Albano's confirmation is appreciated. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII®
WEST O'AHU

April 12, 2016

Subject: GM 792

April 18, 2016 hearing at 2:50 pm, Water, Land and Agriculture

Aloha Senator Gabbard and the Senate Committee on Water, Land and Agriculture:

This letter is written to support Denise Albano's appointment to the Board of the Agribusiness Development Corporation. *How fortunate we all are that Denise is both interested and knowledgeable in these issues!*

Denise Albano has a creative and solutions-based view of our impending food security crisis. She co-founded Feed The Hunger Foundation and its Hawaii program, *Food-For-Thought*, to address food security in the islands. Feed The Hunger Foundation makes loans to entrepreneurs who are starting or expanding their small businesses. Loans have been made to farmers in Kunia, Waianae, and the Waimea Homestead Association. They partnered with others to establish new markets in low-income senior housing complexes in West Loch to include food stamps. They worked with the Waimanalo Market Co-op to introduce a constant supply of fresh produce to this community. *Food-For-Thought* has a track record of responding to food security needs throughout Hawaii nei with a creativity that is both practical and inspiring. As I honor the diversity of what we all can offer, Denise brings a unique set of skills.

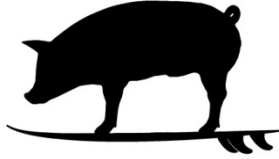
Denise is currently working with the Department of Agriculture ensuring water security for agriculture and farmers. This adds yet another opportunity to pursue her mission of increasing local food production and bringing fresh and nutritious foods to our families.

Finally, we have a new BAS (Bachelors of Applied Science) here at UH West Oahu in SCFS – Sustainable Community Food Systems - and I trust her work at the ADC will dovetail in important ways with the work already underway here on our campus and within our communities of practice and need.

Me ka oia i'o,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Manulani".

Dr. Manulani Aluli Meyer
Director of Indigenous Education
UH West Oahu – manulani@hawaii.edu



KONO's International

4348 Waialae Ave., #882

Honolulu, HI 96816

Dear Boards and Commissions:

This letter is in support of confirming Denise Albano to the Board of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Denise Albano co-founded Feed The Hunger Foundation and its Hawaii program, "Food For Thought," to address food security in the islands. Feed The Hunger Foundation makes loans to entrepreneurs who are starting or expanding their small businesses. Loans have been made to farmers in Kunia, Waianae, and the Waimea Homestead Association. They partner with others to establish new markets in low-income senior housing complexes in West Loch that accepts food stamps. They work with the Waimanalo Market Co-op to introduce a constant supply of fresh produce to this community. The Foundation has invested in cultural, educational, and economic needs through Kako'o'Oiwi.

Her current work with the Department of Agriculture on ensuring water security for agriculture and farmers adds another opportunity to pursue her mission of increasing local food production.

I believe her selfless work and endless passion for the success of Hawaii's agricultural industry will be an asset to the ADC.

Regards,

Stan Glander

Stan Glander

President

Kono's Intertantional

Dear Senator Gabbard:

Thank you very much for the opportunity to respond to the following questions regarding my appointment to the Agribusiness Development Corporation Board of Directors. I look forward to continuing my service!

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

Hawaii stands at a pivotal moment in time where the transition of Hawaii's agricultural industry necessitates both new and evolving partnerships. These partnerships include farmers, ranchers, those involved with aquaculture and commercial agriculture, and landowners. As the next step in the transition to a diversity of crops and an efficient use of our natural resources, we must incorporate the development of new infrastructures and facilities involving packaging, abattoirs, distribution and new markets.

I have been well aware of the challenges and opportunities facing Hawaii and agribusiness since I founded Feed The Hunger Foundation and the Hawaii program, "Food For Thought," to address food security in the islands. Feed The Hunger Foundation makes loans to entrepreneurs who are starting or expanding their small businesses. Loans have been made to farmers in Kunia, Waianae, and who are members of the Waimea Homestead Association. In addition, we have partnered with others to establish new markets in low-income senior housing complexes in West Loch, and are working with the Waimanalo Market Co-op to introduce a constant supply of fresh produce to this community. The Foundation has invested in cultural, educational, and economic needs through Kako'o'Oiwi. We have done our work in partnership with small entrepreneurs, the federal government, private investors, and individuals and groups from various communities.

In addition, I am now working with the State of Hawaii Department of Agriculture on creating an efficient and collaborative system for improving and retaining Hawaii's agricultural water resources.

It would be an honor for me to serve as a Director to the Agribusiness Development Corporation and to be a part of Hawaii's evolving agricultural industry.

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

The role in my opinion is to support the work of the Chair and the staff in ensuring that the agricultural lands under its management are strategically leased to increase the production of a diversified industry with an emphasis on food production. This includes involving smaller farmers, looking at alternative energy resources and creating efficient

and affordable water resources. I also hope that with an increased infrastructure ADC can create partnerships that support agricultural production in terms of resource management and distribution facilities and networks.

(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.

As the co-founder and President of Feed The Hunger Foundation, I have managed loan programs and created food networks both domestically here in Hawaii and in California, and internationally in 7 different countries where the focus of our programs has been in agricultural and food system loans. I believe I have an understanding of some of the issues regarding creating a strong agricultural industry that not only involves financial resources but needs creative partnerships up and down the food production chain to help farmers succeed. I have created partnerships between both small farmers, larger farms, non-profit foundations, technical support providers, marketers, and distribution networks to ensure the success of not only the farmer but of the community that needs more access to healthy local food.

I am also now currently working with the Department of Agriculture to help create more efficient and more plentiful resources for agricultural water. It's a very timely issue as we move further and further away from the big agricultural companies and attempt to invigorate a more diversified agricultural industry.

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

I hope to help increase the focus on food production and on ensuring that smaller farmers have access to resources for successful businesses. As I had mentioned before, this involves more than just access to affordable land. And in addition, I hope to help create efficient systems of water delivery, energy production for the farmers, and increase the ability to partner with private businesses.

(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?

My experience in working with small farmers and in the agricultural industry in Hawaii and internationally is a quality that I believe is essential. The ability to communicate with and for smaller farmers is also another strong quality. And lastly I would name my ability to form partnerships and to work collaborative towards creative solutions would help benefit ADC.

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

One example would be a meeting that I was able to convene last year between a group of approximately 15 different small farmers and the Agricultural Committee of the Senate. The purpose of this meeting was to give the farmers direct access to the Senators to talk about issues and challenges that they face as they try to create and maintain sustainable food production businesses. This was a challenge initially as the farmers are rarely willing to take the time of their farms to speak directly with lawmakers which many were not comfortable doing. First because they are so busy but secondly because many feel as though they will not be heard.

However because of our foundation's relationship with them, they believed that there could be benefits to being able to communicate directly with the people who could make changes in policy. It was very productive and I feel this is an essential piece to having organizations like ADC respond to and create programs that directly support our farmers.

(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?

I do not foresee any areas of conflicts but if they should come up, I would recuse myself from the vote.

Sincerely,

Denise Albano