

GM 810

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 AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

**APRIL 12, 2017
1:15 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 810
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF
AGRICULTURE, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, VINCENT MINA, FOR A TERM TO
EXPIRE 6-30-2020**

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Governor's Message 810 that submits for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, Vincent Mina, for a term to expire on June 30, 2020. The Department supports the confirmation of Vincent Mina.

Mr. Mina is a farmer who is actively engaged in the community and in promoting the agricultural industry in Hawaii. His interest in soil remediation techniques fall in line with his desire for a sustainable agricultural model for the State of Hawaii. Mr. Mina is actively involved in the Hawaii Farmers Union and as their President he has been involved in influencing policy decisions that shape the landscape of agriculture in Hawaii.

Mr. Mina will bring a unique perspective on agriculture that will enrich Board discussions and we look forward to his participation on the Board of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this nomination.





April 10, 2017

Dear Members of the Hawai'i Senate:

It is an honor and pleasure for me to recommend Vincent Mina as a member of the Hawai'i Board of Agriculture. I have known and worked closely with Vincent in his position as president of Hawai'i Farmers Union United for the past five years.

Vincent has brought considerable vision, leadership and a hardworking spirit to the entire Farmers Union organization. In his capacity as a member of our national board of directors, Vincent took the initiative to create and chair our Committee on Renewable Agriculture and Local Foods in order to expand the kinds of family-based agriculture our policy book represents.

Vincent has been an indispensable driver of the dramatic and impressive growth of Hawai'i Farmers Union United during his time as state president. Vincent took over a small, weakly-organized group and has built it into a strong community with over 1,000 members representing 11 chapters across the state.

In addition to his undeniable talent, Vincent has always been a joy to work with. Vincent is a true team player who always manages to foster positive discussions and build consensus among his fellow National Farmers Union board members.

I confidently recommend Vincent Mina for the Hawai'i Board of Agriculture. As a dedicated and knowledgeable family farmer, community leader, and an outstanding person, I know that he will be a beneficial addition to your state government.

Please feel free to contact me should you like to discuss Vincent's qualifications and experience in greater detail.

Best wishes,

Roger Johnson
President



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 12, 2017

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON GM 810

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, VINCENT MINA, for a term to expire 06-30-2020.

Room 224
1:15 PM

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

I am Randy Cabral, Vice-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 supports the nomination of Mr. Vincent Mina to the Board of Agriculture.

Mr. Mina has been a commercial farmer on Maui for many years and previously served as a Board Member on the Maui County Farm Bureau. He is now with the Hawaii Farmers Union, a group affiliated with the National Farmers Union that advocates for agriculture.

HFB respectfully requests your support of Mr. Vincent Mina to the Board of Agriculture.

Thank you for your continued support for Hawaii's farmers and ranchers.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2017 12:20 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: nredfeather@kohalacenter.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM810 on Apr 12, 2017 13:15PM

GM810

Submitted on: 4/3/2017

Testimony for AEN on Apr 12, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Redfeather	Hawaii Island School Garden Network - The Kohala Center	Support	No

Comments: Mr. Mina continues to be a great supporter of all agricultural education initiatives, creating new opportunities for all our farmers and food producers, expanding local food production in Hawai'i, and brining the community together to participate in developing a community voice for agriculture. The HISGN enthusiastically supports Mr. Mina for this position.

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 AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT
Wednesday, April 12, 2017 — 1:15 p.m. — Room 224

Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports GM 810, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, Vincent Mina, for a term to expire 6-30-2020

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere, 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 810, which approves the confirmation of Vincent Mina to the Board of Agriculture.

Vincent Mina has guided the Hawaii Farmers Union United from an emergent grass roots organization into a nationally recognized HFU chapter, with over 1,000 members. Mr. Mina's consistent leadership to focus on farming as a business and move away from ideological strife has been important in bring agriculture together. This is precisely what is needed at the Board of Agriculture. Under Mr. Mina's leadership, HFUU joined the Local Food Coalition, which supports all forms of agriculture. Mr. Mina will bring an important voice for small farmers and regenerative agriculture to the Board of Agriculture.

We are impressed with Mr. Mina's work and feel he would make a great member of the Board of Agriculture. We look forward to working with him 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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, April 6, 2017 9:47 AM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: ohana@kipahulu.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM810 on Apr 12, 2017 13:15PM

GM810

Submitted on: 4/6/2017

Testimony for AEN on Apr 12, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

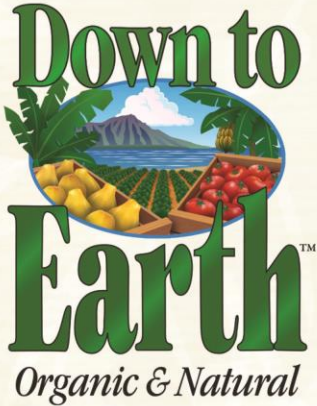
Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Crawford	Kipahulu Ohana, Inc.	Support	No

Comments: Kipahulu Ohana is a Hawaiian nonprofit organization that operates Kapahu Living Farm, a traditional wetland taro farm in Haleakala National Park, as well a 9-acre state lease parcel in orchard and pasture, and other agricultural projects. We have known Vincent Mina for many years, and strongly support his nomination to serve on the Board of Agriculture. Vincent is truly dedicated to supporting our family farmers and promoting regenerative agriculture. He is knowledgeable and fair-minded, and practices what he preaches at his own operation. He was instrumental in helping to start the Hana Chapter of the Hawaii Farmers Union United, of which we are a member, and that has been a great way for farmers to connect with and learn from each other, develop ways to support and cooperate with each other, and share a message of regenerative agriculture with the larger community. It is very important that a voice for regenerative agriculture be represented on the Board, and Vincent's presence there will be of great benefit to all farmers throughout the state. Mahalo for supporting his nomination. Scott Crawford Executive Director Kipahulu Ohana, Inc.

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Love Life!



Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Wednesday, April 12, 2017; 1:15 p.m.

Conference Room 224

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

To: Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair, and
Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chair

From: Mark Fergusson, Chief Executive Officer, Down to Earth
Organic & Natural

Date: April 10, 2017

Subject: GM 819: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, **VINCENT MINA**, for a term to expire 06-30-2020.

Mark Fergusson

Chief Organic Officer
Chief Executive &
Chief Financial Officer
Healthy's, Inc.
dba Down to Earth
P.O. Box 1166
Kailua, HI 96734
Phone: (808) 254-5111
Cell: (808) 551-1386
Fax: (808) 254-5552
mark@downtoearth.org

www.downtoearth.org

As one of Hawaii's leading natural food store chains, Down to Earth *Organic & Natural* is pleased to support Governor David Ige's nomination of Vincent Mina to be the Maui representative on the Hawaii Board of Agriculture.

Down to Earth was started in 1977 in Wailuku, Maui, and today has five stores throughout the state (soon to be six with the opening of its new Kakaako location planned for late 2017 early 2018).

We have known Vince since he began selling produce to our stores on Maui in the mid-90s. At the time, he advocated for small farmers' rights, which has become his mission in life. We are particularly impressed by his vision of helping Hawaii to develop its agriculture to a point where we can produce most of our food using regenerative and restorative practices and a whole-systems approach to ecological agriculture.

Evidence of Vince's commitment to these ideals is reflected in his service to Hawaii as a past president of the Hawaii Organic Farmers Association, Board secretary for the Maui County Farm Bureau, co-founder of the Maui Aina Association—a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to promote life-nurturing practices for the body and soul through education and outreach—and a founding member of the Hawaii Farmer's Union United (HFUU), of which he is currently president.

Vincent Mina's unflinching support of farmer's rights over the years along with his advocacy and deep knowledge of Hawaii's agriculture make him the ideal candidate to serve on the Hawaii Board of Agriculture.

Please support Vincent Mina to be the Maui representative on the Hawaii Board of Agriculture.

Mahalo nui loa,

Our Vision

Inspired by Hawaii's state motto, "The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness" (*Ua Mau ke Ea o ka `Āina i ka Pono*), we envision a Hawaii where all people "Cherish the land and live in health and harmony" (*E Mālama I Ka `Āina, E Ola Pono*).

Tea of the United States
TOTUS

Hearing AEN
GM 810
Gubernatorial Nominee Vincent Mina
Board of Agriculture

April 11, 2017

Dear Senate President Kouchi and Members of the Senate,

It is quite unique, and Hawaii has been fortunate, to have such a gifted individual as Vincent Mina, who farms and advocates the importance of Hawaii agriculture to numerous organizations both full time. His commitment to Hawaii agriculture is unsurpassed.

Hawaii has such a large diversity in agriculture as well as the people who farm and have stewardship of these lands. Vincent Mina has had a strong track record in his assistance with these communities to find constructive resources. He has brought those with common and conflicting interests together to work through issues of concern in moving Hawaii agriculture forward with long-term positive results.

We here in Hawaii that strive in furthering the *Camellia sinensis* tea industry in collaboration with the organization Hawaii Tea Society have had the opportunity in receiving education from agriculture specialists in conferences and on location workshops all arranged by Vincent Mina developing programs that he founded such as Body and Soil and the formation of the chartered organization Hawaii Farmers Union United that gives voice for hundreds of farms from Hawaii to the National Farmers Union United headquartered in DC. Vincent Mina has the innate ability to create bridges amongst Counties, State and Federal agencies to address concerns for the people of Hawaii in agriculture and furthermore help accomplish those concerns till that end.

On behalf of the communities of Hawaii tea agriculture we hope the Senate will vote to approve the nomination of Vincent Mina to the Board of Agriculture.
Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,

Eva J Lee

Eva Lee - TOTUS Executive Director. Tel 808-217-5411 Email: teahawaii@gmail.com

AC Leong

Chiu Leong - Tea Hawaii & Company Founder. Tel 808-967-7637
Email: r.chiuleong@gmail.com

PO Box 362 Volcano, Hawaii USA 96785
www.TOTUS1awards.com



Tax and Financial Expertise Delivered with Exceptional Care for Extraordinary Results

April 10, 2017

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hawaii State Legislature
415 S Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Testimony in Support of Nomination of Vincent Mina to Board of Agriculture

Dear Senator Gabbard:

Seldom in the course of political life does a true farmer statesman have the opportunity to share his wisdom and experience in a legislative body. Vincent Mina is that man.

Vincent is a reluctant political voice. He is not someone who seeks personal benefit or the spotlight. Yet, he has tirelessly and persistently advocated on behalf of Hawaii's farmers for three decades. Unlike many, he is not defined by what he is against, but what he is for – he is for the farmer that grows our food.

At a time when the governor wants to double farm production in Hawaii, Vincent Mina is the ideal choice to augment the Board of Agriculture and Environment with a voice of reason and the capacity to find common ground and supportive policies to reach the governor's goal.

As the president of the Hawaii Farmers Union United (HFUU), Vince has quadrupled the size of the organization, and there are now 10 thriving chapters (of farmers, and farm supporters) throughout Hawaii. He is the inspiration for several generations of farmers, and a teacher that leads by example and unquestionable integrity. Vince represents a large cross-section of thousands of farmers. He is in the forefront of regenerative agricultural practices designed to increase food production in Hawaii.

Vincent is fair, open-minded, courteous, wise, and experienced. He is a farmer. He farms every day. He knows what he's talking about because he is doing it. He is a leader with a long and distinguished track record. He is an authentic farmer statesman.

There could be no better choice for the Board of Agriculture and Environment than Vincent Mina and it is a privilege to know him.

Sincerely yours,

D. Pierce Gray, MA, EA

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 10, 2017 4:45 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: kaiwiki.1970@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for GM810 on Apr 12, 2017 13:15PM*

GM810

Submitted on: 4/10/2017

Testimony for AEN on Apr 12, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 7:52 AM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: mnakahata@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for GM810 on Apr 12, 2017 13:15PM*

GM810

Submitted on: 4/11/2017

Testimony for AEN on Apr 12, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mae Nakahata	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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GM 810, Vincent Mina

April 11, 2017

Aloha mai,

I am supporting the nomination of Mr. Vincent Mina, by Governor Ige, to serve on the State Board of Agriculture, for a term to expire on June 30, 2020. Mr. Mina is a colleague and friend, and I know he will serve the people of the State of Hawai'i well.

Mr. Mina has a passion for agriculture, and I know he will take his responsibilities very seriously. Here on Maui, I have been involved, with him, in several community projects, not the least of which is the Hawai'i Farmers Union United. I am impressed by his community organizing skills. He "pays attention" to how leadership, embeds the sense of community and place for many here on Maui, and throughout the state.

I know Mr. Mina to be a fine and civically involved citizen of Maui, who is contributing to the quality of life that we share. He is not only responsible, but diligent, committed and, for me, culturally competent to engage and interact with farmers and others beyond the agricultural sector.

Please confirm his gubernatorial appointment.

Me ka 'oia'i'o,

John A. H. Tomoso +, MSW, ACSW, LSW
51 Ku'ula Street
Kahului, Maui, Hawai'i 96732-2906

State of Hawai`i
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Chair Gabbard & Committee Members

April 8, 2017

RE: Testimony in support of GM810, consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture of Vincent Mina for a term to expire 06-30-2020.

Dear Chair Gabbard and Committee Members:

I write to support GM810, and ask that you confirm to the Board of Agriculture the consideration of Vincent Mina as a Board member. Vincent Mina is a long-time farmer and Hawai`i Farmers Union United (HFUU) Board President. He reaches across the aisle to all agricultural supporters, prioritizing locally grown food, and proselytizes effectively to any non supporters.

I worked with Vincent Mina over the years, beginning when I was a freshman at the State Legislature and later as Chair for the House Committee on Agriculture. More recently and currently, I serve as the Policy Chair for the HFUU organization.

Mr. Mina will be a great voice for local, small farmers who are creating/can create a food-focused agenda and will provide small farmer perspectives for the Board of Agriculture.

Sincerely,

Jessica Wooley

April 11, 2017

David S. Case
78-6980 Kaluna St, Apt. 102
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740-2822
casedavids@gmail.com

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chairman
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Hearings, Wednesday, April 12, 2017 at 1:15 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

**IN SUPPORT OF GM 810 - APPOINTMENT OF VINCENT MINA
TO THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

I am testifying enthusiastically in support Governor Ige's nomination of Vincent Mina to the Hawaii Board of Agriculture. Mr. Mina is the President of the Hawaii Farmers Union United ("HFUU"). HFUU is the Hawaii State subdivision of the National Farmers Union ("NFU"), which for over 100 years has represented family farms located across America based on the three principles of education, cooperation and legislation.

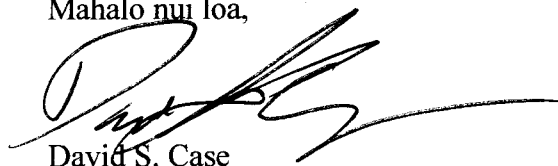
Mr. Mina and I both were appointed to the HFUU Statewide Board in 2012, him as the President and me as the Board Secretary. Under Mr. Mina's leadership HFUU grew from 200 members and a single chapter on Maui in 2012 to some 1,100 members today represented by 10 (and soon to be 12) chapters on the Islands of Hawaii, Kauai, Maui and Oahu. HFUU is a statewide representative of family farm owners throughout Hawaii.

Mr. Mina will also bring a national perspective to the State Board of Agriculture because he sits on the National Farmers Union Board. In 2014 and at his suggestion the NFU Board approved formation of a Committee on "Regenerative Agriculture and Community Food Production", which he chairs. This reflects NFU's and Mr. Mina's commitment to increased community food production based on principles of regenerative agriculture.

Regenerative agriculture relies on using and enhancing natural processes to improve soil health, thereby reducing the need for costly chemical amendments and pesticides while improving the amount and quality of agricultural production. I know from experience that Mr. Mina and HFUU members daily demonstrate the practical benefits of these principles in their own farming businesses.

Mr. Mina's commitment to these principles, while sustained by his own experience, does not mean that either he, HFUU or NFU oppose other agricultural practices that rely more on manufactured products to obtain results. Mr. Mina and the members of the organizations he represents have adopted specific policies promoting solution-based and action-oriented improvement of agricultural practices to be implemented through education and cooperation. His will be a constructive and productive voice on the Board of Agriculture. I urge your Committee to advance his appointment without reservation.

Mahalo nui loa,



David S. Case

Vincent Mina

1-Why do you wish to be a member of the Board of Agriculture?

My experience being the current president of Hawaii Farmers Union United since 2012 and its founding member in 2009, along with co-operating a successful and productive family farm with my wife Irene since 1994, has tempered my understanding of the many challenges family farmers face here in Hawaii in making a living. Bringing that experience and a willingness to work alongside others who value our local agriculture is a service I embrace.

2-How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Board of Agriculture? Its my understanding that the board of agriculture oversees all of the state agricultural lands and its leases. Having an oversight that is looking out for the best and highest use and interest of those state lands while making it attractive for farmers/ranchers to be able to utilize those lands in producing food security is a role and responsibility I will give forth my best effort.

3-Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the Board of Agriculture, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? What qualifies me to be in this position is my commitment over the years to local agriculture. Leading by example in doing what it takes to make a living at being efficient in growing our family farm which continues to evolve over the past 23 years. Seeing also a need in the community to have a strong local agricultural presence represented and respected, while raising awareness through educational outreach in support of our family farmers who value regenerative agricultural practices, gave rise to my being a founding member and developing a state chapter of the national farmers union. Currently working to building regional strength through community in celebration of locally produced food, while surrounding myself with others who value a collaborative and cooperative approach by creating solutions in support of a economically viable local agricultural movement in Hawaii. Those solutions identifying our being food secure through empowering a multitude of family farmers and ranchers having the ability in making a living at what they love to do.

4 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 Agriculture. Hawaii has so much unused agricultural state land. The irony is we have year round conditions of sunlight and access to water that if managed properly we could in fact utilize those lands in creating an abundant economy while not compromising the lands ability to be productive in the process. Being that I was able to create a successful whole system of agricultural production on a finite piece of land we live on, I have the ability to see how this could be done on any scale working in collaboration and cooperation with others to get there. Hawaii has the resources it needs to be the paradise on earth others on our planet perceive us to be and my decisions will be based on that understanding.

5 What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?

That is a very big question reflective of what resources will be available to cover all that is needed in growing our agricultural presence within the state to mirror the goals of this administration and of our state constitution on agriculture which states. "The State shall conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, increase agricultural self-sufficiency and assure the availability of agriculturally suitable lands. The legislature shall provide standards and criteria to accomplish the foregoing." To this end I trust my time of service will make a difference in a positive way

6- Name three qualities that best describe you and that would make you stand out. How would these qualities benefit the Board of Agriculture?

Grateful, Creative and Persistent. How these qualities would benefit the board of Agriculture is through working alongside others who value these qualities as being a way for us to collaborate and cooperate with one another in representing the highest interest of our state agricultural lands will hopefully make a difference in my time of service.

7-Name one previous experience that would make you stand out. How would this benefit the Board of Agriculture?

Having the experience of building a socially and economically successful family farm over the past 23 years on what land we had to work with is a metaphor to working with who and what we have within the board of agriculture to achieve similar results in the efficient use of land while being ecologically productive.(7)

8-Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your service on the Board of Agriculture? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest? Not that I can for see since this is the first time I would be serving on this board, yet if there was anything that arose that would be in question as to a conflict of interest I would reclude myself from any vote.

