



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

Testimony of
David Y. Ige
Governor, State of Hawai'i
Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

May 13, 2020

1:00 p.m., Conference Room 016

In consideration of
Governor's Message 501

Submitted for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy Director, Department of
Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, Morris Atta

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and committee members:

I respectfully request your support in confirming the appointment of Morris Atta to serve as the Deputy Director, Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Atta has been with the department since 2017 as the Agricultural Land Program Manager/ Administrator where he has been responsible for the management of State-owned agricultural lands. In this capacity he has overseen public lands management; the review of statutes, rules, policies and procedures; the departmental budget; the negotiation of land transactions; the management of media and public inquiries; and personnel, revenue development and information systems. He has also participated on various working groups and task forces.

Prior to his tenure at the Department of Agriculture, Mr. Atta held leadership positions with the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transit and state Department of Land and Natural Resources. Mr. Atta is a member of the Hawaii State and National Asian Pacific Bar Associations.

This administration is committed to transforming the culture of government by embracing and accelerating change. I'm confident that Morris Atta will support our employees in the Department of Agriculture in this effort. Together, we can build a better home for our keiki, kupuna, and all the residents of Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your consideration.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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

TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

MAY 13, 2020
1:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 016

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 501
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DEPUTY
DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE
MORRIS ATTA, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-05-2022.

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

I am pleased to testify in strong support of Morris Atta's nomination. Morris brings over 30 years of experience in the public and private sectors. He has extensive experience in state and local government and has served at the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, the Hawaii State Senate, the Department of Land and Natural Resources, and the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation. Prior to his interim appointment as Deputy Director, Morris served as the Program Manager for the Agricultural Land Program within the Department of Agriculture. Morris' impressive resume and high level of competency with difficult policy issues makes him highly qualified to serve as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture. During his formative years he spent his childhood weekends with his family as a volunteer farmhand at his uncle's Nanakuli chicken farm and Waianae vegetable farm. Until today, Morris holds many fond memories of his first 15 years playing and working on a family owned and family operated farm on Waianae Coast. His agrarian experience left a lasting appreciation for the work ethic and integrity of the first-



generation farmer in Hawaii. It is fitting that Morris's professional interest gravitated to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture, as the Agricultural Land Program Manager in 2017. His commitment to public service and desire to serve Hawaii's farmers, ranchers and growers is genuine. Morris' compass follows the direction to assist stakeholders and the public good. It has been my pleasure to work with Morris on strategic planning and policies to support and advocate food security, and the viability of Hawaiian agriculture and the environment. He will serve the State of Hawaii well.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Morris Atta, GM 501, as Deputy to the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

ROBERT YU
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN TESTIMONY BY
CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
AND
ROBERT YU
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE

TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 501

May 13, 2020
1:00 p.m.
Room 016

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, MORRIS ATTA, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-05-2022.

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Members of the Committee:

We strongly support the appointment of Morris Atta to the position of deputy director of the Department of Agriculture (DOA).

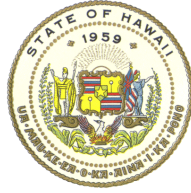
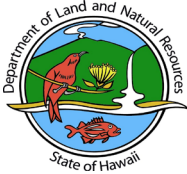
Governor Ige's administration is committed to addressing the many issues facing our state in a direct and forthright manner. We strive to do the right thing, the right way to achieve our shared goal of a healthy, sustainable economy to support our keiki, our kupuna, and the disadvantaged.

Mr. Atta is an integral part of a team that is committed to achieving the goals of this administration in an honest, transparent, accountable, and responsive manner.

Mr. Atta has been serving as the deputy director of the Department of Agriculture since August 2019. Prior to that, he was the agriculture land program manager/administrator at DOA and he also worked for the city's Honolulu Rail Transit Project, Department of Land and Natural Resources, and as an attorney in various capacities in the public and private sectors. His work experience and knowledge will benefit the department and the State; therefore, we support confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**Wednesday, May 13, 2020
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 016**

**In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 501
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE
MORRIS ATTA
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-05-2022**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources strongly supports Governor's Message 501 nominating Morris Atta as the Deputy Director for the Department of Agriculture for a term to expire at noon on December 5, 2022.

While most recently serving in the capacity of interim Deputy Director for the Department of Agriculture, Mr. Atta has also worked as their Agricultural Land Program Manager. Prior to coming on board with the Department of Agriculture, he served as the Right-of-Way Deputy Director for the City and County of Honolulu's Rapid Transit Project (HART). Mr. Atta also served as the Land Administrator and the Special Projects Coordinator for the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department), arguably one of the best places to learn and refine one's state land management skills.

The Department of Agriculture will be well served by his wealth of land management knowledge and experience, in addition to his calm demeanor and big picture outlook and perspective.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's strong support of Governor's Message 501, nominating Morris Atta as the Deputy Director for the Department of Agriculture.

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS



TESTIMONY BY:

JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
LYNN A.S. ARAKI-REGAN
DEREK J. CHOW
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

May 13, 2020
1:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 016

G.M. 501

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, MORRIS ATTA, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

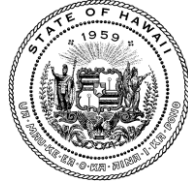
The Department of Transportation (DOT) **strongly supports** Morris Atta as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture (DOA).

Mr. Atta received his B.A. from Yale University and his J.D. from New York University of Law. He has been a practicing attorney since 1984 and a public servant in various roles of government since 1998. As the Agricultural Land Program Manager at the DOA, he understands the problems, needs, and needed opportunities in our agriculture industry. His solution-oriented ability to plan for strategic change, encourage product development, enhance organizational productivity and strengthen brand equity ensured the vitality of a local agribusiness in a challenging environment.

The dire outlook of our economy necessitates Hawaii's food security and the DOT believes his commitment and years of experience will support the growth of Hawaii's future by enhancing, promoting, and protecting Hawaii's agriculture and aquaculture industries at the DOA. The DOA is a critical partner in eradicating invasive species in our state. Working with Mr. Atta will make it possible for DOT to deal with this ongoing challenge in a collaborative way. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR
JOSH GREEN M.D.
LT. GOVERNOR



RONA M. SUZUKI
DIRECTOR OF TAXATION
DAMIEN A. ELEFANTE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION
P.O. BOX 259
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
Phone: (808) 587-1540 / Fax: (808) 587-1560
Email: Tax.Directors.Office@hawaii.gov

To: The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair;
The Honorable Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

From: Rona M. Suzuki, Director
Department of Taxation

Re: **STRONG SUPPORT of GM 501**
Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2020
Time: 1:00 P.M.
Place: Conference Room 016, State Capitol

The Department of Taxation (Department) strongly supports GM 501 and the confirmation of Morris M. Atta as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Atta has been serving as the Department of Agriculture's Deputy Director since August 2019. Prior to this, he served the State in multiple capacities, including agriculture land program manager/administrator, state lands administrator and special projects coordinator at the Department of Land and Natural Resources, and research attorney for the Senate Majority Research Office. His commitment to public service and depth of knowledge regarding agriculture in Hawaii uniquely qualify him to serve in this position.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of GM 501 and the confirmation of Morris M. Atta as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



SCOTT T. MURAKAMI
DIRECTOR

ANNE EUSTAQUIO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

www.labor.hawaii.gov

Phone: (808) 586-8844 / Fax: (808) 586-9099

Email: dlir.director@hawaii.gov

May 13, 2020

To: The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair,
The Honorable Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2020
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 016, State Capitol

From: Scott T. Murakami, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

**Re: G.M. No. 501 Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy
Director of the Department of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, MORRIS ATTA**

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Members of the Committee,

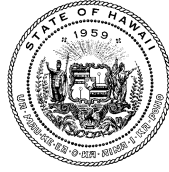
My name is Scott T. Murakami, and I am the Director of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. I am testifying in strong support of Governor's Message 501, Gubernatorial Nominee, Morris Atta, as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture (DoA).

Mr. Atta has demonstrated that he has the leadership and experience to assist in leading the DoA. As the Deputy Director of the DoA, Mr. Atta assists the Chairperson in preserving, promoting, and developing essential agriculture resources and infrastructure. Mr. Atta's prior service as the Agriculture Resource Manager and State Lands Administrator at the Department of Land and Natural Resources demonstrate his extensive knowledge of the State's agriculture and land laws and policies as well as his ability to support effective planning and use of the State's precious resources.

I urge you to confirm Mr. Atta to serve as the Deputy Director of the DoA.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Mr. Atta.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CURT T. OTAGURO
COMPTROLLER
AUDREY HIDANO
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES

P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
OF
CURT T. OTAGURO, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

MAY 13, 2020, 1:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 016, STATE CAPITOL

G.M. 501

SUBMITTING FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS DEPUTY
DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,
MORRIS ATTA, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-05-2022.

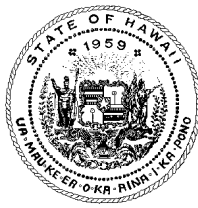
Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on G.M. 501. I support the nomination of Mr. Morris Atta to the position of Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Atta has served as the interim Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture since August 2019. He has also served as the Agricultural Land Program Manager/Administrator for the Department of Agriculture since 2017. In addition, Mr. Atta also worked as the State Land Administrator for the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

He has had numerous leadership positions in public service. In addition, Mr. Atta's experience in the private sector as an attorney makes him an ideal candidate to continue to lead the Department of Agriculture. Mr. Atta has been extremely valuable and supportive when sharing his knowledge and experience with bill review and development. He is a definite team player and an asset to the Department of Agriculture and the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

NOLAN P. ESPINDA
DIRECTOR

Maria C. Cook
Deputy Director
Administration

Shari L. Kimoto
Deputy Director
Corrections

Renee R. Sonobe Hong
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 501,
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE MORRIS ATTA.

by
Nolan P. Espinda, Director
Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair

Wednesday, May 13, 2020; 1:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **supports** the nomination of Morris Atta as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Atta currently serves as the Agricultural Land Program Manager/Administrator of the Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Resource Management Division, the entity charged with ensuring the economical and productive management of State-owned agricultural lands. With broad experience as an attorney in governmental land use and administration, real estate, natural resources protection, and public information and media relations, Mr. Atta has ably managed all aspects of his current position, making him well-prepared to step into the position of Deputy Director.

The Department, therefore, respectfully urges the Senate's confirmation of Morris Atta as Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



KENNETH S. HARA
MAJOR GENERAL
ADJUTANT GENERAL

STEPHEN F. LOGAN
COLONEL
DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816-4495

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 501
RELATING TO GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE
MORRIS M. ATTA

PRESENTATION TO
THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

BY

MAJOR GENERAL KENNETH S. HARA
ADJUTANT GENERAL,
DIRECTOR OF THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY,
AND HOMELAND SECURITY ADVISOR

13 MAY 2020

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and committee members:

I respectfully request your **SUPPORT** in confirming the appointment of Mr. Morris M. Atta to serve as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Atta's broad and deep background in agriculture, coupled with his vast experience and multiple senior leadership positions make him an ideal candidate to serve as the Deputy Director for the Department of Agriculture. His leadership as an Agricultural Land Program Manager/Administrator for the Department of Agriculture, State Lands Administrator for the Department of Land and Natural Resources, and Senior Staff Attorney for the State Judiciary Committee give him experience and expertise that few possess. His experiences also provide a unique and seasoned insight and perspective on matters relating to the state and each island.

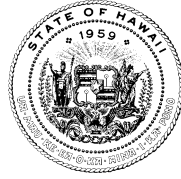
Mr. Atta holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Yale University and a Juris Doctor from the New York University, School of Law, and has served his community and state in both private practice and public service. His community service also lends understanding into his character of selfless service and confirm his commitment to be a public servant.

I strongly stand behind Mr. Morris M. Atta and his leadership to advance the Department of Agriculture and to be one of the beacons to help guide and lead our state in this time of crisis and in Hawai'i's future.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify and for your consideration.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII

JOSH GREEN
LT. GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII



WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

TYLER I. GOMES
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**

P. O. BOX 1879
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM J. AILA, JR, CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
HEARING ON MAY 13, 2020 AT 1:00PM IN CR 016

IN SUPPORT OF

GM501

for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy Director of the Department of
Agriculture,
Gubernatorial Nominee, **MORRIS ATTA**,
for a term to expire 12-05-2022

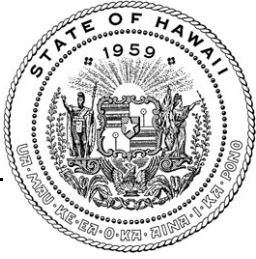
May 13, 2020

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony in support of Governor Ige's nomination of Morris Atta as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Atta's professional background as an attorney, and experience with both the City & County of Honolulu and the State, make him well-qualified for this appointment. At the Department of Agriculture for the last three years, he has been Agriculture Land Program Manager overseeing its day-to-day operations to ensure economical and productive management of state-owned agricultural lands. This has also included operating and CIP budget oversight, policies and procedures review, public lands management, personnel, and interagency and intra-agency work. Serving as the Administrator of Land Division at the Department of Land & Natural Resources, support of State priorities to support Agriculture was an area of responsibility. We look forward to working with Mr. Atta.

We respectfully ask your committee to advise and consent to this nomination, and we thank you for your consideration of our testimony.



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR
MIKE MCCARTNEY
DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Web site: dbedt.hawaii.gov

Telephone: (808) 586-2355
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Statement of
MIKE MCCARTNEY
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Wednesday, May 13, 2020
1:00 PM
State Capitol Room 016

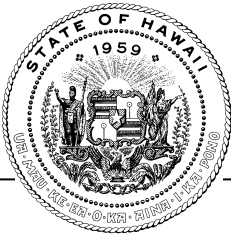
In consideration of
GM 501
**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DEPUTY
DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, GUBERNATORIAL
NOMINEE, MORRIS ATTA, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-05-2022.**

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Members of the Committee.

I am writing in support of the appointment of Mr. Morris Atta to serve as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

Mr. Atta currently serves the Department of Agriculture as the Deputy Director and has shown exemplary leadership for his Department through the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Atta brings valuable leadership, business experience, and passion to innovate the agriculture sector, and DBEDT strongly supports his nomination.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

235 South Beretania Street, 6th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Telephone: (808) 587-2846
Fax: (808) 587-2824
Web: <http://planning.hawaii.gov/>

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF PLANNING

Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS
Director, Office of Planning
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Wednesday, May 13, 2020
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 016
In consideration of
GM 501
**Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation as the
Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture, Morris Atta, for a term
to expire on 12-05-2022.**

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment.

I respectfully ask your **support** for the confirmation of Morris Atta as Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.

I have worked with Morris for years at DLNR and DOA, most recently as the Interim Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture. Morris is someone you can trust to act with integrity in service to the public good. Hawaii's food producers need his experience in land management, legal issues, water availability, and access to capital.

Morris is collaborative team player who works well with everyone who plays a role in one of Hawaii's toughest challenges: sustainable agriculture for food security.

I strongly urge you to recommend confirmation of Morris Atta as Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
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 AGRICULTURE AND
ENVIRONMENT

Wednesday, May 13, 2019
1:00 PM

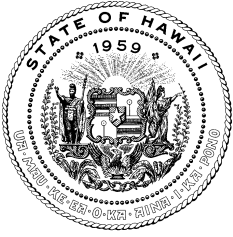
Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, MORRIS ATTA, for a term to expire at noon on 12-15-2022

Aloha Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee,

The Agribusiness Development Corporation (“ADC”) supports Mr. Morris Attas’s appointment as the Deputy of the Department of Agriculture (HDOA).

Mr. Atta is well qualified to be confirmed as then Deputy of HDOA. He has been the Agricultural Land Program Manager in HDOA’s Agricultural Resource Management Division and has held administrator level positions at the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation and the Department of Land and Natural Resources. This broad administrative and policy experience will serve the HDOA well. For these reasons, we respectfully ask for your support of Mr. Atta’s appointment as the Deputy Director of the HDOA.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

235 South Beretania Street, 5TH Floor, Honolulu, HI 96813 | energy.hawaii.gov

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

SCOTT J. GLENN
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

(808) 587-3807

Testimony of
SCOTT J. GLENN, Chief Energy Officer

before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Wednesday, May 13, 2020
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

In SUPPORT of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 501, MORRIS ATTA
For Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture
(Written Testimony Only)

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Members of the Committee, I am writing in support of the appointment of Mr. Morris Atta to serve as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Atta has demonstrated proactive and collaborative leadership in his capacity as Acting Deputy Director. He recognizes the pressing challenges before Hawaii in terms of agriculture and food, land use, environment, energy and climate change. His extensive experience in land use, resource management, and state and local government gives him the tools to effect change within the Department as well as with the broader community. Should this Committee and the Senate confirm him in this position, I look forward to working with him to address our opportunities and challenges in balancing energy and agriculture to better all of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

GM-501

Submitted on: 5/11/2020 12:05:12 PM

Testimony for AEN on 5/13/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Derek Chow	Testifying for DOT Harbors Division	Support	No

Comments:

Governor's Message No. 501 submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, MORRIS ATTA, for a term to expire 12-05-2022.

Department of Transportation, Harbors Division SUPPORTS the nomination of Morris Atta as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Dean M. Matsukawa
Dept of Agriculture
Honolulu, Hi 96814
May11, 2020

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture
State Capitol Conference Room 016
Testimony GM 501

Aloha Senator Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

I am pleased to submit this letter in strong support of the nomination of Morris Atta as Deputy Director for the Department of Agriculture.

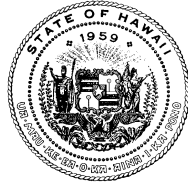
Mr. Atta was employed with the Agricultural Resources Management Division as the Agricultural Land Program Manager which allowed him to become familiar the agriculture industry statewide. Mr. Atta has been recently serving as acting Deputy Director for the Department of Agriculture which has provided a broader perspective on the industry and understanding of the issues and challenges that Hawaii's farmers and ranchers face on a daily basis. Mr. Atta as been an asset to the Department of Agriculture in helping to move the industry forward especially during these turbulent times.

Mr. Atta also has a background in law and broad experience in land issues which makes him a stronger candidate for the position. In my dealings with Mr. Atta, I have been impressed by his work ethic, intelligence and candor.

Mr. Atta has been and continues to be a valuable asset to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture and will well serve the agriculture industry. I respectfully ask the Committee to vote favorably on the confirmation of Morris Atta to the post of Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Dean M. Matsukawa
Agricultural Loan Administrator



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. BOX 3378
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

Testimony of Dr. Keith E. Kawaoka, Deputy Director, Environmental Health
in SUPPORT of GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 501
Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy Director of the
Department of Agriculture
MORRIS ATTA, for a term to expire 12-05-2022

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Hearing Date: May 13, 2020

Room Number: 016

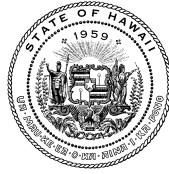
Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of the confirmation of Mr. Morris Atta to serve as Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.

I have worked with Mr. Atta for over 15 years as in his support of both agricultural and environmental health programs. Over the course of this period, Mr. Atta has exemplified as a hard-working, dedicated public servant. His institutional knowledge and expertise in his various public and private assignments will greatly benefit the Department of Agriculture.

Please grant him the opportunity to continue his leadership and commitment to the overall goals of the Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo, for the opportunity to testify.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CURT T. OTAGURO
COMPTROLLER
AUDREY HIDANO
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES

P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

TESTIMONY
OF
AUDREY HIDANO, DEPUTY COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
ON
WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2020, 1:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 016, STATE CAPITOL

G.M. 501

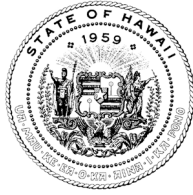
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, **MORRIS ATTA**, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-05-2022.

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on G.M. 501. I support the nomination of **MR. MORRIS ATTA** to the position of Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Atta comes to the State well qualified in the legal arena and surely has been in various other governmental agencies to get a broad perspective of doing State business. He also has legislative experience, been in private practice and has many professional affiliations to be a worthy candidate.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



DOUGLAS MURDOCK
CHIEF INFORMATION
OFFICER

STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HI 96810-0119
Ph: (808) 586-6000 | Fax: (808) 586-1922
ETS.HAWAII.GOV

Testimony of
DOUGLAS MURDOCK
Chief Information Officer
Enterprise Technology Services

Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Wednesday, May 13, 2020

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE No. 501
Gubernatorial Nominee Morris M. Atta

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman and members of the committee:

I am submitting testimony in support of Mr. Morris M. Atta, nominee for the deputy director of the Department of Agriculture. He currently serves as the department's interim deputy director and prior to that was the land program manager/administrator, overseeing the department's establishment of a land management infrastructure to manage the state's agricultural land assets.

Previously, Morris served as head of land acquisition for the city's Honolulu Rail Transit Project, state lands administrator and special projects coordinator for the state Department of Land and Natural Resources, and research attorney for the Senate Majority Research Office, Hawai'i State Senate.

His diverse work experience and years of service with the State will be a tremendous asset to the State of Hawaii and its residents. I highly recommend Mr. Atta for this position.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this nominee.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



RYKER WADA
DIRECTOR

ANDREW T. GARRETT
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
235 S. BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2437

May 12, 2020

TESTIMONY TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
For Hearing on Wednesday, May 13, 2020
1:00 p.m., Conference Room 016

By

RYKER WADA
DIRECTOR

Governor's Message 501: Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, MORRIS ATTA, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

(WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY)

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment

I submit this testimony in **Strong Support** of the confirmation of Morris Atta as Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture. I have had the opportunity to work with Mr. Atta over the past year since he was nominated for this role and have found him to be passionate about supporting the agricultural community. Mr. Atta's background and extensive experience in this industry will go a long way in fulfilling his duties and responsibilities as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in **SUPPORT** of Governor's Message 501 and the confirmation of Mr. Atta as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.

GM-501

Submitted on: 5/12/2020 9:13:38 AM

Testimony for AEN on 5/13/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephen	Testifying for DOD	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony of

Colonel Stephen F. Logan

Acting Adjutant General, State of Hawai'i

Before the

Senate Committee on AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

May 13, 2020

1:00 p.m., Conference Room 016

In consideration of

Governor's Message 501

Submitted for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, Morris M. Atta

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and committee members:

I respectfully request your support in confirming the appointment of Mr. Morris M. Atta to serve as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Atta has held several leadership positions including but not limited to that of Agricultural Land Program Manager/Administrator for the Department of Agriculture, State Lands Administrator for the Department of Land and Natural Resources, and Senior Staff Attorney for the State Judiciary Committee. These key positions afford Mr. ta a keen insight and experienced perspective on matters relating to the state and community.

Mr. Atta holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Yale University and a Juris Doctor from the New York University, School of Law. He has served his community and

state through an impressive array of private practice assignments as well as professional affiliations. His community service dedication is particularly noteworthy and indicative of his character of selfless service.

I'm confident that Mr. Moris M. Atta will enable and empower the Department of Agriculture to lead our sustainable food chain resource in this time of crisis and beyond to build a better home for our keiki, kupuna, and all the residents of Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Scott Enright
President
Scott E. Enright Company LLC

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair

Re: GM 501

Wednesday, May 13, 2020, 1:00pm
Conference Room 016, State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Members of the Committee:

I respectfully request your **support** in confirming the nomination of Morris Atta as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.

I recruited and hired Mr. Atta for his civil service at the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA). Having worked extensively with Morris, I know him to be thoughtful & insightful in decision-making and to be honest & forthright. The State of Hawaii and the HDOA are fortunate to have such an outstanding public service individual working on agricultural issues in our state. I have done the work of the office of the Chairperson at the HDOA and know what it takes to be successful. Morris possesses all of the qualities needed and therefore, I believe him to be an excellent choice as the Deputy Director.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on this important matter.

Mahalo,

Scott Enright



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, May 13, 2020
TIME: 1:00 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

GM 501

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, MORRIS ATTA, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **Strongly Supports** GM 501.

Morris Atta has been a steadfast advocate for Hawaii Agriculture, as well as a supporter of the Hawaii Cattle Industry. His experience through varied state and city departments gives him the unique ability to support agriculture through a comprehensive view.

Morris has served as the Agricultural Land Program Manager for the past 3 years and has proven to be effective at communicating with key stakeholders. He has a grasp for management of natural resources, land, and agriculture, which is necessary to move Hawaii's agriculture in a positive direction.

Hawaii's ranchers and farmers support Morris Atta. He has demonstrated his knowledge and passion for agriculture in Hawaii and is a great candidate for the position of Deputy Director of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

We urge you to support Morris Atta's nomination and we appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

Nicole Galase
Managing Director



James Gomes
Ulupalakua Ranch, Inc
HC 1 Box 901
Kula, HI 96790

May 13, 2020

Senator Mike Gabbard
Chair, Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Gabbard,

I am writing this letter today to express my support for Morris Atta. Mr. Atta is under consideration for Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.

I have worked personally with Morris Atta for a number of years on various issues relating to many branches of agriculture across the State of Hawaii. I have always found him to be both knowledgeable and professional in every way. He is able to think out of the box and has creative strategies. He has shown the ability to work with the entire agriculture industry which is a huge assist to the both farmers and ranchers.

As President of the Hawaii Cattle Council and a board member of DLNR I have worked with him on getting lands transferred from DLNR to the Department of Agriculture.

In the changing time we face ahead, someone with Morris's ability to work with the entire industry with an open mind will be beneficial to the entire State of Hawaii. I strongly support Morris Atta to be confirmed as the Deputy Director for the Department of Agriculture. Should you have any questions for me regarding my working relationship with him, please feel free to contact me at 808-268-8062.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Gomes
Director of Operations
Ulupalakua Ranch, Inc.

Testimony of
Linda K. Rosehill
President, Rosehill & Associates

Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Wednesday, May 13, 2020
1:00PM, Room 016

In consideration of
GM 501, Morris Atta
as the
Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Committee Members:

I respectfully request your support in confirming the nomination of Morris Atta as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.

I have known and worked with Morris throughout his term at Department of Agriculture. I have found him to be thoughtful and insightful in decision making. He gives good and sound advice. He is honest, truthful, and forthright. His legal background will aid him in his duties for this position. These qualities will make him an excellent choice as the Deputy Director.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Mahalo,



Linda K. Rosehill



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

May 13, 2020

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON GM 501

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture, gubernatorial nominee, MORRIS ATTA, for a term to expire 12-05-2022.

Room 016
1:00 PM

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

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director 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.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau strongly supports the confirmation of Morris Atta as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.

HFB has had the opportunity to work with Mr. Atta while he served as the State Lands Administrator at the Department of Land and Natural Resources, as well as during his tenure as Program Manager for the Agricultural Resource Management Division of the Department of Agriculture, and in his current capacity as Deputy Director of that department. We have found him to be exceptionally qualified, dedicated, honest, and fair in his handling of the many complicated issues tackled by these governmental bodies.

As a farmer-based organization, HFB appreciates Mr. Atta's legal knowledge and commitment to appropriately addressing agricultural issues. Because of his extensive background and experience, he recognizes the vital importance of Hawaii's natural resources along with the need for our state to become more self-sustaining through a healthy agricultural sector. Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are in many cases the chief stewards of our natural resources, and they rely upon the land, water, and air for their livelihoods. Mr. Atta has a unique understanding of the convergence of these subjects and he will continue to be a valuable member of the decision-making team of professionals that serve the public within the Department of Agriculture.

HBF looks forward to continuing to work with Mr. Atta as Hawaii's producers strive to move our state closer to food self-sufficiency, ever mindful of the public trust resources we steward and rely upon.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer our strong support for Morris Atta.

From: [County Farm Bureau](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I support GM501
Date: Monday, May 11, 2020 3:20:05 PM

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the confirmation of Morris Atta as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Atta has an extensive background and experience, he recognizes the vital importance of Hawaii's natural resources along with the need for our state to become more self-sustaining through a healthy agricultural sector. Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are in many cases the chief stewards of our natural resources, and they rely upon the land, water, and air for their livelihoods. Mr. Atta has a unique understanding of the convergence of these subjects and he will continue to be a valuable member of the decision-making team of professionals that serve the public within the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer support for Morris Atta.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

County Farm Bureau
6170 Hauiki Rd Unit G
Kapaa, HI 96746
jerrysfarmkauai@gmail.com



Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. in Conference Room 016

RE: GM 501 – Relating to Agriculture – In Support

To Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the Committee:

The Kohala Center is proud to support GM 501, requesting confirmation of Mr. Morris Atta as Deputy Director of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Atta's professional and familial background directly contribute to and enhance his ability to serve as Hawai'i's Deputy Director of Agriculture. With roots in an immigrant family and an upbringing on O'ahu's rural west side, Mr. Atta has witnessed tremendous shifts in Hawai'i's agricultural landscape, from the loss of family farms to the rise of community-based agricultural initiatives and 'āina-based health centers. Mr. Atta's background in law gives him the ability to analyze opportunities and challenges facing the industry from multiple perspectives; combined with his willingness to listen in community, he is then able to offer recommendations that support stakeholders across the sector, from the small family farm to the large corporation.

Mr. Atta is dedicated to agricultural development in Hawai'i. As a means to that end he is willing to engage in collaborative discussions among diverse stakeholders to more thoughtfully and skillfully work to support smart agriculture development. The coronavirus pandemic has provided us with an opportunity, working individually in our families and collectively as a community, to look carefully at the capabilities and the shortcomings of our agricultural sector. While many stories of resilience have surfaced, the inequities, vulnerabilities, and shortcomings of our statewide community food system have shown themselves more clearly. Mr. Atta's willingness to engage with individuals across the system—from producers, to technical assistance providers and university staff, and policy makers—enables our Department of Agriculture to better understand the strengths and needs across the entire industry. This perspective will help us as we move together towards greater food self-reliance and more equitable access to locally grown food across residents of *all economic classes*.

Hawai'i's economy was built on agriculture, and while the economic value of the industry has waned, its importance to Hawai'i's residents, communities, and our institutions has not. The coronavirus pandemic has emphasized the importance of agriculture and shown us that is a bright spot in our island communities. We have seen farms shift to produce for more direct-to-consumer markets and consumers increase their willingness to support them, while others have ramped up donations to local feeding programs. The value of these farmers and the importance of locally grown food is at the heart of the work that Mr. Atta has performed to date, and the basis for the work he will do in the future.

For these reasons, we respectfully request your support of GM 501. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicole Milne', written in a cursive style.

Nicole Milne
Vice President of Food and Agriculture Initiatives

GM-501

Submitted on: 5/11/2020 2:41:29 PM

Testimony for AEN on 5/13/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Gottlieb	Testifying for Ponoholo Ranch Limited	Support	No

Comments:

We strongly support the Nomination of Morris Atta as Deputy Director of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. I have worked with Morris for a number of years, from the time he worked in the Land Division at DLNR. Morris has always been willing to listen and is fair and open. Morris has been the Agricultural Land Program Manager at HDOA for about 3 years now and has been a solid advocate for agriculture, always available and able to communicate with the Department's key Stakeholders. Please support Morris Atta as the Deputy Director for the Hawaii Dept of Agriculture.

Aloha
Alan Gottlieb



SanHi

GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP

DATE: May 12, 2020

TO: Senator Mike Gabbard
Chair, Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Submitted Via Capitol Website

FROM: Luis P. Salaveria

RE: **GM 501 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, MORRIS ATTA, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022. Hearing Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. Conference Room: 016**

Dear Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

I offer testimony in support of Morris Atta's appointment as Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture. I have had the opportunity to work with Deputy Director Atta on issues important to Hawaii's agricultural economy and find him to be a person of high integrity and strong work ethic.

Mr. Atta has the experience and qualities needed to help Hawaii's agricultural community and industry. He has extensive experience in the operations of state government in both staff and leadership positions. His experience in land management and asset valuation will be invaluable to the state as we continue to diversify and strengthen our economy.

For these reasons, I believe that MORRIS ATTA will make a fine Deputy Director for the Department of Agriculture. I respectfully request the committee to **APPROVE** his appointment.

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

**GM 501, Morris Atta
Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture
Senate AEN Committee
Wednesday, May 13, 2020
1:00 pm
Conference Room 016**

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

Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Senate AEN 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. I am a volunteer director for the West Oahu Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). I am also the Treasurer for the Hawaii Farm Bureau.

Strong support for Morris Atta as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture is expressed. Over the years, his experiences have demonstrated his knowledge about agriculture as the Agricultural Land Program Administrator, about land policies as the DLNR Special Projects Coordinator which included the use of public lands for the State of Hawaii for a variety of issues such as dam safety; energy development; mineral & water rights; Native Hawaiian rights; natural disaster & emergency response, coordination and planning; environmental contamination & hazardous materials; legislation & rulemaking; regulatory compliance; public-private partnerships. He has first-hand experience about the workings of the State Legislature as Senate Majority Office staff research attorney and Senior attorney for the State Judiciary Committee.

This combination of experiences and skills make him a valued asset to the Department of Agriculture, particularly when there seems to be heightened focus to boost local agriculture. Your support of Morris Atta's confirmation is appreciated. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.

TESTIMONY OF BRIAN KAU

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

MAY 13, 2020
1:00 P.M., ROOM 016

in consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 501

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DEPUTY
DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Governor's Message 501 regarding the appointment of Morris Atta to the position of Hawaii Department of Agriculture Deputy Director. I strongly support this nomination.

I've had the privilege of knowing Morris for several years, beginning with his position as the Department of Land and Natural Resources Land Division Administrator, through his stay at the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation, and now at the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. Morris is a highly intelligent and thoughtful individual with exceedingly high morals and compassion. He has time and again demonstrated seemingly infinite patience and understanding with those he works with, and none can doubt his integrity. He has a deep passion for agriculture and the desire and will to change the trajectory of this critically important industry in Hawaii. I have no doubt whatsoever that he will continue to be a forceful advocate for local food production and diversified agriculture. I am honored to call him a friend and colleague and respectfully implore this committee to recommend to advise and consent this Governor's Message to the full Senate.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

GM-501

Submitted on: 5/9/2020 7:22:35 AM

Testimony for AEN on 5/13/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jon Nouchi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

I would like to express my strongest support for the nomination of Morris Atta as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.

I have worked alongside Mr. Atta in the past as Deputy Directors at the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation, and know him to be a calm and effective leader - - qualities that are absolutely necessary to bring Hawai'i into a strong and thriving post COVID-19 recovery. Agriculture should be at the forefront of our resilience actions as our state strives towards sustainability and food security, and I can think of no better servant leader to assist in this charge than Morris Atta.

He possesses a rare ability to blend technical legal concepts while synthesizing creative solutions. His ability to apply existing rules of engagement and expand them to new programs make him an asset to any organization looking to expand its presence and effectiveness. As a firmly-rooted community member, Morris delivers his service mindset and integrity focus to multiple boards and organizations. He is a true asset to our Hawai'i.

Humbly, I again submit my support for Mr. Morris Atta as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.

Me ka 'oia'i'o,

Jon Y. Nouchi
Honolulu, Hawai'i

GM-501

Submitted on: 5/10/2020 9:13:57 AM

Testimony for AEN on 5/13/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
earl yamamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF EARL YAMAMOTO

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2020

1:00 P.M.

CONFERENCE ROOM 016

GM 501

SUBMITTING FOR THE CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, MORRIS ATTA, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-05-2022.

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Earl Yamamoto, Senior Planner in the Department of Agriculture. I respectfully ask for your support to confirm Morris Atta as Deputy to the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture.

During the past nine months, Morris has been involved with the Department's development of two strategic planning initiatives to increase food self-sufficiency by increasing local food production and consumption. He is now seeking to mitigate the

impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on production agriculture and identifying solutions to move the fresh foods once meant for the visitor industry to Hawaii's residents. It's during these contentious and demanding times that his affable and courteous demeanor combined with his proven ability to get things done, comes into play. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Morris was and continues to be instrumental in getting agreements to transfer public agricultural lands to the Department for our management as production agricultural lands required under a 2003 legislative act.

Morris is intimately involved with and continues to further familiarize himself with the many facets of Hawaii's agricultural industry and the workings of the Department. His skills in defining problems, finding solutions, effectively resolving differences of opinion, all done while standing on the razor's edge between the State legislature, the Administration, and the Department's programs is what the Department needs today.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

GM-501

Submitted on: 5/11/2020 8:56:40 AM

Testimony for AEN on 5/13/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan S. Okimoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Ted Yamamura
2073 Wells Street Suite 100
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii 96793
Tel: (808) 270-0604
Email: ted@acmmaui.com

May 11, 2020

Honorable Senator Mike Gabbard
Chair, Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 201
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Letter of Support – Mr. Morris M. Atta, GM 501
Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture

Dear Senator Gabbard and Committee Members:

I write to express my full support of Mr. Morris Atta in his appointment as Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture. Mr. Atta and I have been friends for many years, and I have always found him to be a knowledgeable and conscientious hard worker and a strong, forthright leader in his fairness and honesty.

His management and leadership background within various divisions of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, the Department of Agriculture, and the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation have provided Morris Atta with vast practical knowledge of land and land uses, water resources, and plants. This makes Morris Atta a natural fit for the State department charged to support, promote and enhance the State's agricultural sector.

His experience and leadership qualities make Morris Atta eminently qualified to serve as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture. I urge your favorable consideration of Mr. Morris Atta.

Sincerely yours,



Ted Yamamura

GM-501

Submitted on: 5/11/2020 10:07:07 AM

Testimony for AEN on 5/13/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
genevieve salmonson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

TESTIMONY OF ISAAC MAEDA, DVM
BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

MAY 13, 2020

1:00 P.M.

CONFERENCE ROOM 016

RELATING TO GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 501

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DEPUTY
DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, GUBERNATORIAL
NOMINEE, MORRIS ATTA FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-05-2022

Chairperson Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman and Members of the Committee

I strongly support Morris Atta's appointment to the position of Deputy to the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture. Morris has valuable experience and knowledge of many topics of importance to agriculture in Hawaii. His regulatory expertise for example, has already proven valuable on several occasions.

Morris communicates and works well with department's program personnel and is well respected. He can relate and understands concerns expressed by industry, the public and employees.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Mr. Morris Atta and Governors Message 501.

GM-501

Submitted on: 5/11/2020 11:07:58 AM

Testimony for AEN on 5/13/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
J Ashman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

GM-501

Submitted on: 5/11/2020 11:35:39 AM

Testimony for AEN on 5/13/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kalani	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

GM-501

Submitted on: 5/11/2020 12:01:35 PM

Testimony for AEN on 5/13/2020 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

GM-501

Submitted on: 5/11/2020 12:47:39 PM

Testimony for AEN on 5/13/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jesse K. Souki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

I **support** the nomination and confirmation of Morris Atta as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Atta has a solid career in public service and a strong understanding of land use and natural resource issues in Hawai'i. I worked with Mr. Atta when he was at the department of land and natural resources and the Honolulu authority for rapid transportation. He is a hard worker and an effective collaborator. He is often consulted as an expert in the field. Mr. Atta is a great pick for the department.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Jesse K. Souki

From: [Rock Riggs](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: FW: Testimony - Support for Confirmation of Morris Atta, Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture (GM501)
Date: Monday, May 11, 2020 12:20:02 PM
Importance: High

From: dariola@hawaiiintel.net <dariola@hawaiiintel.net>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 11:01 AM
To: Sen. Mike Gabbard <sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov>
Subject: Testimony - Support for Confirmation of Morris Atta, Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture (GM501)
Importance: High

May 11, 2020

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair (sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Hawaii State Capitol, Room 201

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Support for Confirmation of Morris Atta, Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture (GM501)

Dear Senator Gabbard:

I hope you and your family are safe during these challenging times.

I give this testimony for your consideration and confirmation of Morris Atta as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture. I have known Morris for 12 years. We worked together for five years at the Department of Land and Natural Resources where he served as the state lands administrator responsible for managing, planning, buying, and disposing state-owned lands, including agriculture.

Morris is a leader with high moral standards. He builds trust and communicates clearly through active listening and consensus building. He is open about goals and challenges and helps others understand their roles and how they contribute to the department's overall success. Morris is decisive unless there is a compelling reason to shift focus. He is responsible for his decisions and endures setbacks while optimistically keeping the ability to focus on

charting new courses of action to move forward. He is an effective communicator and collaborator committed to this work.

Morris' leadership skills will continue to serve him well in supporting the Chairperson and the Department of Agriculture in helping grow Hawaii's diverse agricultural activities and opportunities.

Very truly yours,

Dar Ariola

Dar Ariola

7018 Hawaii Kai Drive

Honolulu, Hawaii 96825

GM-501

Submitted on: 5/11/2020 1:56:25 PM

Testimony for AEN on 5/13/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gregory FRIEL	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

GM-501

Submitted on: 5/11/2020 4:09:19 PM

Testimony for AEN on 5/13/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ronald Weidenbach	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Mr. Atta is ideally suited for the position of Deputy Director of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. He has a lifelong passion and appreciation for agriculture, has extensive administrative experience in managing multiple executive branch agencies, was a former Senate Majority research attorney and DLNR Employee of the Year, and is committed to raising the stature of agriculture in Hawai'i's economy. The latter is both fundamentally necessary and timely, and Mr Atta is the right man at the right time to support this critical effort. My wife, Estralita, and I strongly support Mr. Atta's nomination without reservation.

GM-501

Submitted on: 5/11/2020 6:29:27 PM

Testimony for AEN on 5/13/2020 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

GM-501

Submitted on: 5/11/2020 7:46:42 PM

Testimony for AEN on 5/13/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Allicyn Tasaka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I have known Morris Atta for over 20 years from when we worked together at the Senate Majority Research Office. During his time at SMA, Morris was assigned to Land, Water, Agriculture, Health, Energy and the Environment committees. I will venture to say that he worked on many of the statutes and laws that he has governed serving in the State of Agriculture as Ag Land Program Manager/Administrator since 2017. With his many years practicing law and applying rules to the various positions he has held in the public sector continues to serve him well as Deputy Director. Morris is fair-minded, highly intelligent and able to communicate complex issues to a variety of diverse populations in a calm and likeable manner. He has strong leadership abilities, especially needed now as we traverse through recovery from COVID-19. I am in strong support of Morris Atta's nomination as Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture. Thank you.

GM-501

Submitted on: 5/12/2020 3:07:33 AM

Testimony for AEN on 5/13/2020 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Chair Gabbard and committee members:

I strongly support GM 501 - Mr. Morris Atta for the Deputy Director of the Hawaii Dept. of Agriculture. His experience and knowledge in agriculture has provided great support for all farmers and ranchers statewide.

Alan Takemoto

GM-501

Submitted on: 5/12/2020 10:54:14 AM

Testimony for AEN on 5/13/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bud & Katy Gibson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We strongly support the nomination of Morris Atta as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo

Bud and Katy Gibson

Statement of
LEO R. ASUNCION

before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Wednesday, May 13, 2020

1:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 016

in consideration of

Governor's Message (GM) 501

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

I strongly support the nomination of Mr. Morris Atta to serve as Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Atta has the experience and knowledge to be a part of the leadership of an important and key department of the State. With experience in legal, real estate, and land/resource asset management, I am certain that he will apply that knowledge and will do so with diligence, integrity, and competence.

I respectfully encourage the Committee to advise and consent to the nomination of Mr. Morris Atta as Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on GM 501.

GM-501

Submitted on: 5/12/2020 11:12:38 AM

Testimony for AEN on 5/13/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bryan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support Morris Atta's nomination for deputy director of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

He is an intelligent and reasonable individual, with an even temperament and welcoming personality. He listens to and accepts all view points before he carefully and insightfully balances the many and sometimes competing interests before him. He will use his multi-layered background in law, land use, and state government to help the agricultural community, and will work hard to ensure the Department of Agriculture is run smoothly and efficiently. I urge you to confirm Mr. Atta as the deputy director for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

From: [Ron Kauha'aha'a](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I support GM501
Date: Monday, May 11, 2020 2:50:04 PM

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the confirmation of Morris Atta as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Atta has an extensive background and experience, he recognizes the vital importance of Hawaii's natural resources along with the need for our state to become more self-sustaining through a healthy agricultural sector. Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are in many cases the chief stewards of our natural resources, and they rely upon the land, water, and air for their livelihoods. Mr. Atta has a unique understanding of the convergence of these subjects and he will continue to be a valuable member of the decision-making team of professionals that serve the public within the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer support for Morris Atta.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Ron Kauha'aha'a
Manager
Nutrien Ag Solutions
PO Box 86
Kunia, HI 96759
ron.kauhaahaa@nutrien.com

From: [Roy Asao](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I support GM501
Date: Monday, May 11, 2020 2:50:05 PM

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the confirmation of Morris Atta as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Atta has an extensive background and experience, he recognizes the vital importance of Hawaii's natural resources along with the need for our state to become more self-sustaining through a healthy agricultural sector. Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are in many cases the chief stewards of our natural resources, and they rely upon the land, water, and air for their livelihoods. Mr. Atta has a unique understanding of the convergence of these subjects and he will continue to be a valuable member of the decision-making team of professionals that serve the public within the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer support for Morris Atta.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Roy Asao
1323 Olin St
Honolulu, HI 96818
rasao777@aol.com

From: [Brad Seymour](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I support GM501
Date: Monday, May 11, 2020 3:00:06 PM

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the confirmation of Morris Atta as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Atta has an extensive background and experience, he recognizes the vital importance of Hawaii's natural resources along with the need for our state to become more self-sustaining through a healthy agricultural sector. Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are in many cases the chief stewards of our natural resources, and they rely upon the land, water, and air for their livelihoods. Mr. Atta has a unique understanding of the convergence of these subjects and he will continue to be a valuable member of the decision-making team of professionals that serve the public within the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer support for Morris Atta.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Brad Seymour
Manager
SR Hawaii
390 Hale Pl
Kapaa, HI 96746
brad@seymourresourcehawaii.com

From: [Martha Lanoza](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I support GM501
Date: Monday, May 11, 2020 3:10:06 PM

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the confirmation of Morris Atta as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Atta has an extensive background and experience, he recognizes the vital importance of Hawaii's natural resources along with the need for our state to become more self-sustaining through a healthy agricultural sector. Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are in many cases the chief stewards of our natural resources, and they rely upon the land, water, and air for their livelihoods. Mr. Atta has a unique understanding of the convergence of these subjects and he will continue to be a valuable member of the decision-making team of professionals that serve the public within the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer support for Morris Atta.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Martha Lanoza
Manager
Milo's Patele Shop, LLC
316 Kolekole Dr
Wahiawa, HI 96786
mpstop808@gmail.com

From: [Laurie Ho](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I support GM501
Date: Monday, May 11, 2020 3:20:05 PM

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the confirmation of Morris Atta as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Atta has an extensive background and experience, he recognizes the vital importance of Hawaii's natural resources along with the need for our state to become more self-sustaining through a healthy agricultural sector. Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are in many cases the chief stewards of our natural resources, and they rely upon the land, water, and air for their livelihoods. Mr. Atta has a unique understanding of the convergence of these subjects and he will continue to be a valuable member of the decision-making team of professionals that serve the public within the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer support for Morris Atta.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Laurie Ho
retired
USDA-NRCS
4133 Kawili St
Lihue, HI 96766
laurieho1@hawaiiantel.net

From: [Stephanie whalen](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I support GM501
Date: Monday, May 11, 2020 3:20:06 PM

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the confirmation of Morris Atta as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Atta has an extensive background and experience, he recognizes the vital importance of Hawaii's natural resources along with the need for our state to become more self-sustaining through a healthy agricultural sector. Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are in many cases the chief stewards of our natural resources, and they rely upon the land, water, and air for their livelihoods. Mr. Atta has a unique understanding of the convergence of these subjects and he will continue to be a valuable member of the decision-making team of professionals that serve the public within the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer support for Morris Atta.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Stephanie whalen
Ex Dir
HARC
PO Box 64
Kunia, HI 96759
whaleinn1944@gmail.com

From: [Michelle Gorham](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I support GM501
Date: Monday, May 11, 2020 3:30:08 PM

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the confirmation of Morris Atta as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Atta has an extensive background and experience, he recognizes the vital importance of Hawaii's natural resources along with the need for our state to become more self-sustaining through a healthy agricultural sector. Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are in many cases the chief stewards of our natural resources, and they rely upon the land, water, and air for their livelihoods. Mr. Atta has a unique understanding of the convergence of these subjects and he will continue to be a valuable member of the decision-making team of professionals that serve the public within the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer support for Morris Atta.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Michelle Gorham
1813 10th Ave Apt A
Honolulu, HI 96816
michelle.gorham@gmail.com

From: [Stacie Sasagawa](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I support GM501
Date: Monday, May 11, 2020 3:40:05 PM

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the confirmation of Morris Atta as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Atta has an extensive background and experience, he recognizes the vital importance of Hawaii's natural resources along with the need for our state to become more self-sustaining through a healthy agricultural sector. Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are in many cases the chief stewards of our natural resources, and they rely upon the land, water, and air for their livelihoods. Mr. Atta has a unique understanding of the convergence of these subjects and he will continue to be a valuable member of the decision-making team of professionals that serve the public within the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer support for Morris Atta.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Stacie Sasagawa
91-1170 Kaiopua St
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
ssasagawa@hawaii.rr.com

From: [Sandi Kato-Klutke](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I support GM501
Date: Monday, May 11, 2020 3:40:06 PM

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the confirmation of Morris Atta as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Atta has an extensive background and experience, he recognizes the vital importance of Hawaii's natural resources along with the need for our state to become more self-sustaining through a healthy agricultural sector. Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are in many cases the chief stewards of our natural resources, and they rely upon the land, water, and air for their livelihoods. Mr. Atta has a unique understanding of the convergence of these subjects and he will continue to be a valuable member of the decision-making team of professionals that serve the public within the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer support for Morris Atta.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Sandi Kato-Klutke
Retired
6266 Kawaihau Rd
Kapaa, HI 96746
skatoklutke@gmail.com

From: [Phil Becker](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I support GM501
Date: Monday, May 11, 2020 4:00:09 PM

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the confirmation of Morris Atta as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Atta has as extensive background and experience, he recognizes the vital importance of Hawaii's natural resources along with the need for our state to become more self-sustaining through a healthy agricultural sector. Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are in many cases the chief stewards of our natural resources, and they rely upon the land, water, and air for their livelihoods. Mr. Atta has a unique understanding of the convergence of these subjects and he will continue to be a valuable member of the decision-making team of professionals that serve the public within the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer support for Morris Atta.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Phil Becker
Owner
Aikane plantation
PO Box 698
Pahala, HI 96777
aikaneplantation@hawaii.rr.com

From: [Aileen Yeh](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I support GM501
Date: Monday, May 11, 2020 4:40:04 PM

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the confirmation of Morris Atta as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Atta has an extensive background and experience, he recognizes the vital importance of Hawaii's natural resources along with the need for our state to become more self-sustaining through a healthy agricultural sector. Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are in many cases the chief stewards of our natural resources, and they rely upon the land, water, and air for their livelihoods. Mr. Atta has a unique understanding of the convergence of these subjects and he will continue to be a valuable member of the decision-making team of professionals that serve the public within the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer support for Morris Atta.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Aileen Yeh
Owner
Aileen's Nursery
942 W Kawaiilani St
Hilo, HI 96720
ayeh@hawaii.rr.com

From: [Warren Watanabe](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I support GM501
Date: Monday, May 11, 2020 4:40:06 PM

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the confirmation of Morris Atta as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Atta has an extensive background and experience, he recognizes the vital importance of Hawaii's natural resources along with the need for our state to become more self-sustaining through a healthy agricultural sector. Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are in many cases the chief stewards of our natural resources, and they rely upon the land, water, and air for their livelihoods. Mr. Atta has a unique understanding of the convergence of these subjects and he will continue to be a valuable member of the decision-making team of professionals that serve the public within the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer support for Morris Atta.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Warren Watanabe
PO Box 253
Kunia, HI 96759
warrenmcfb@gmail.com

From: [Glenn Toyama](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I support GM501
Date: Monday, May 11, 2020 5:10:05 PM

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the confirmation of Morris Atta as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Atta has an extensive background and experience, he recognizes the vital importance of Hawaii's natural resources along with the need for our state to become more self-sustaining through a healthy agricultural sector. Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are in many cases the chief stewards of our natural resources, and they rely upon the land, water, and air for their livelihoods. Mr. Atta has a unique understanding of the convergence of these subjects and he will continue to be a valuable member of the decision-making team of professionals that serve the public within the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer support for Morris Atta.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Glenn Toyama
P,VP,S,T
Hawaiian Flower Gardens
PO Box 5
Mountain View, HI 96771
gtoyama67@gmail.com

From: [John Gordines](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I support GM501
Date: Monday, May 11, 2020 7:00:05 PM

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the confirmation of Morris Atta as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Atta has an extensive background and experience, he recognizes the vital importance of Hawaii's natural resources along with the need for our state to become more self-sustaining through a healthy agricultural sector. Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are in many cases the chief stewards of our natural resources, and they rely upon the land, water, and air for their livelihoods. Mr. Atta has a unique understanding of the convergence of these subjects and he will continue to be a valuable member of the decision-making team of professionals that serve the public within the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer support for Morris Atta.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

John Gordines
TROPICAL FLOWERS EXPRESS
6721 Kawaihau Rd
Kapaa, HI 96746
gordines@kauaiflowers.com

From: [Alvin Tsuruda](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I support GM501
Date: Monday, May 11, 2020 7:20:04 PM

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the confirmation of Morris Atta as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Atta has an extensive background and experience, he recognizes the vital importance of Hawaii's natural resources along with the need for our state to become more self-sustaining through a healthy agricultural sector. Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are in many cases the chief stewards of our natural resources, and they rely upon the land, water, and air for their livelihoods. Mr. Atta has a unique understanding of the convergence of these subjects and he will continue to be a valuable member of the decision-making team of professionals that serve the public within the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer support for Morris Atta.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Alvin Tsuruda
Owner
Waihale Products
41-910 Mahiku Pl
Waimanalo, HI 96795
Waihale@hawaiiantel.net

From: [Mark Phillipson](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I support GM501
Date: Monday, May 11, 2020 7:30:06 PM

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the confirmation of Morris Atta as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Atta has an extensive background and experience, he recognizes the vital importance of Hawaii's natural resources along with the need for our state to become more self-sustaining through a healthy agricultural sector. Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are in many cases the chief stewards of our natural resources, and they rely upon the land, water, and air for their livelihoods. Mr. Atta has a unique understanding of the convergence of these subjects and he will continue to be a valuable member of the decision-making team of professionals that serve the public within the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer support for Morris Atta.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Mark Phillipson
Principal
Pacific Ag Consultants
2801 Coconut Ave Apt 4E
Honolulu, HI 96815
reelrelaxed@gmail.com

From: [Dean Okimoto](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I support GM501
Date: Monday, May 11, 2020 7:50:05 PM

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the confirmation of Morris Atta as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Atta has an extensive background and experience, he recognizes the vital importance of Hawaii's natural resources along with the need for our state to become more self-sustaining through a healthy agricultural sector. Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are in many cases the chief stewards of our natural resources, and they rely upon the land, water, and air for their livelihoods. Mr. Atta has a unique understanding of the convergence of these subjects and he will continue to be a valuable member of the decision-making team of professionals that serve the public within the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer support for Morris Atta.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Dean Okimoto
Chair
Hawaii Agricultural Foundation
41-574 Makakalo St
Waimanalo, HI 96795
deanjokimoto@gmail.com

From: [James Falconer](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I support GM501
Date: Monday, May 11, 2020 8:30:05 PM

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the confirmation of Morris Atta as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Atta has an extensive background and experience, he recognizes the vital importance of Hawaii's natural resources along with the need for our state to become more self-sustaining through a healthy agricultural sector. Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are in many cases the chief stewards of our natural resources, and they rely upon the land, water, and air for their livelihoods. Mr. Atta has a unique understanding of the convergence of these subjects and he will continue to be a valuable member of the decision-making team of professionals that serve the public within the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer support for Morris Atta.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

James Falconer
PO Box 13100
Lahaina, HI 96761
jkimof@msn.com

From: [Diane Chuensanguansat](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I support GM501
Date: Monday, May 11, 2020 9:00:05 PM

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the confirmation of Morris Atta as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Atta has an extensive background and experience, he recognizes the vital importance of Hawaii's natural resources along with the need for our state to become more self-sustaining through a healthy agricultural sector. Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are in many cases the chief stewards of our natural resources, and they rely upon the land, water, and air for their livelihoods. Mr. Atta has a unique understanding of the convergence of these subjects and he will continue to be a valuable member of the decision-making team of professionals that serve the public within the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer support for Morris Atta.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Diane Chuensanguansat
DINAS GARDEN
PO Box 860898
Wahiawa, HI 96786
dina@hawaii.rr.com

From: [James Tavares](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I support GM501
Date: Monday, May 11, 2020 9:50:04 PM

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the confirmation of Morris Atta as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Atta has an extensive background and experience, he recognizes the vital importance of Hawaii's natural resources along with the need for our state to become more self-sustaining through a healthy agricultural sector. Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are in many cases the chief stewards of our natural resources, and they rely upon the land, water, and air for their livelihoods. Mr. Atta has a unique understanding of the convergence of these subjects and he will continue to be a valuable member of the decision-making team of professionals that serve the public within the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer support for Morris Atta.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

James Tavares
Owner
The Grassmaster
PO Box 3037
Kahului, HI 96733
tavaresjam@gmail.com

From: [Elton Mow](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I support GM501
Date: Monday, May 11, 2020 11:30:05 PM

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the confirmation of Morris Atta as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Atta has an extensive background and experience, he recognizes the vital importance of Hawaii's natural resources along with the need for our state to become more self-sustaining through a healthy agricultural sector. Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are in many cases the chief stewards of our natural resources, and they rely upon the land, water, and air for their livelihoods. Mr. Atta has a unique understanding of the convergence of these subjects and he will continue to be a valuable member of the decision-making team of professionals that serve the public within the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer support for Morris Atta.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Elton Mow
Orchid Plantation, Inc.
Orchid Plantation, Inc.
17-318 Ipuaiwaha St
Keaau, HI 96749
orchidplantation@gmail.com

From: [Frederick Mencher](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I support GM501
Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 2:20:10 AM

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the confirmation of Morris Atta as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Atta has an extensive background and experience, he recognizes the vital importance of Hawaii's natural resources along with the need for our state to become more self-sustaining through a healthy agricultural sector. Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are in many cases the chief stewards of our natural resources, and they rely upon the land, water, and air for their livelihoods. Mr. Atta has a unique understanding of the convergence of these subjects and he will continue to be a valuable member of the decision-making team of professionals that serve the public within the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer support for Morris Atta.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Frederick Mencher
2029 Nuuanu Ave Apt 1510
Honolulu, HI 96817
frederickmencher@gmail.com

From: [Jason Moniz](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I support GM501
Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 7:00:19 AM

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the confirmation of Morris Atta as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Atta has an extensive background and experience, he recognizes the vital importance of Hawaii's natural resources along with the need for our state to become more self-sustaining through a healthy agricultural sector. Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are in many cases the chief stewards of our natural resources, and they rely upon the land, water, and air for their livelihoods. Mr. Atta has a unique understanding of the convergence of these subjects and he will continue to be a valuable member of the decision-making team of professionals that serve the public within the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer support for Morris Atta.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Jason Moniz
PO Box 253
Kunia, HI 96759
jasonmoniz73@gmail.com

From: [Alan Tada](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I support GM501
Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 7:10:22 AM

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the confirmation of Morris Atta as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Atta has an extensive background and experience, he recognizes the vital importance of Hawaii's natural resources along with the need for our state to become more self-sustaining through a healthy agricultural sector. Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are in many cases the chief stewards of our natural resources, and they rely upon the land, water, and air for their livelihoods. Mr. Atta has a unique understanding of the convergence of these subjects and he will continue to be a valuable member of the decision-making team of professionals that serve the public within the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer support for Morris Atta.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Alan Tada
Flowers Forever
FLOWERS FOREVER LLC
2979 Kalena St
Lihue, HI 96766
flowersforever@hawaiiantel.biz

From: [Helena Miguel](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I support GM501
Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 7:40:12 AM

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the confirmation of Morris Atta as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Atta has an extensive background and experience, he recognizes the vital importance of Hawaii's natural resources along with the need for our state to become more self-sustaining through a healthy agricultural sector. Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are in many cases the chief stewards of our natural resources, and they rely upon the land, water, and air for their livelihoods. Mr. Atta has a unique understanding of the convergence of these subjects and he will continue to be a valuable member of the decision-making team of professionals that serve the public within the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer support for Morris Atta.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Helena Miguel
Mfg Technician
Bayer
PO Box 183
Kaunakakai, HI 96748
helena.miguel@bayer.com

From: [Melvin Kunitake](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I support GM501
Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 9:00:14 AM

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the confirmation of Morris Atta as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Atta has an extensive background and experience, he recognizes the vital importance of Hawaii's natural resources along with the need for our state to become more self-sustaining through a healthy agricultural sector. Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are in many cases the chief stewards of our natural resources, and they rely upon the land, water, and air for their livelihoods. Mr. Atta has a unique understanding of the convergence of these subjects and he will continue to be a valuable member of the decision-making team of professionals that serve the public within the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer support for Morris Atta.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Melvin Kunitake
owner
melvin kunitake farm
PO Box 135
Holualoa, HI 96725
melvin.kuni@gmail.com

From: [Kurt Bosshard](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I support GM501
Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 12:40:07 PM

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the confirmation of Morris Atta as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Atta has an extensive background and experience, he recognizes the vital importance of Hawaii's natural resources along with the need for our state to become more self-sustaining through a healthy agricultural sector. Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are in many cases the chief stewards of our natural resources, and they rely upon the land, water, and air for their livelihoods. Mr. Atta has a unique understanding of the convergence of these subjects and he will continue to be a valuable member of the decision-making team of professionals that serve the public within the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer support for Morris Atta.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Kurt Bosshard
KRB LLC
3144 Elua St
Lihue, HI 96766
kboss@aloha.net

From: [Michelle Starke](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I support GM501
Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 2:30:11 PM

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the confirmation of Morris Atta as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Atta has an extensive background and experience, he recognizes the vital importance of Hawaii's natural resources along with the need for our state to become more self-sustaining through a healthy agricultural sector. Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are in many cases the chief stewards of our natural resources, and they rely upon the land, water, and air for their livelihoods. Mr. Atta has a unique understanding of the convergence of these subjects and he will continue to be a valuable member of the decision-making team of professionals that serve the public within the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer support for Morris Atta.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Michelle Starke
91-1010 Waikoihi St
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
robert.starke.007@gmail.com

From: [Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Mulkern](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I support GM501
Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 3:20:09 PM

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the confirmation of Morris Atta as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Atta has an extensive background and experience, he recognizes the vital importance of Hawaii's natural resources along with the need for our state to become more self-sustaining through a healthy agricultural sector. Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are in many cases the chief stewards of our natural resources, and they rely upon the land, water, and air for their livelihoods. Mr. Atta has a unique understanding of the convergence of these subjects and he will continue to be a valuable member of the decision-making team of professionals that serve the public within the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer support for Morris Atta.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Kevin Mulkern
Pres
Mulkern Landscaping & Nursery
408 Lani St
Honolulu, HI 96821
susan@mulkernlandscaping.com



GORDON M. ARAKAKI

Attorney at Law, LLLC
94-1176 Polinahe Place
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797
Cell: (808) 542-1542
E-mail: gordonarakaki@hawaiiantel.net

Hearing Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2020

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Place: Senate Conference Room 016

The Honorable Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

The Honorable Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Subject: **GM 501** – Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, **Morris Atta**, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the Committee:

I strongly and whole-heartedly support the confirmation of **Morris Atta** as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.

Many others will speak to Morris's outstanding work as a leader, administrator, and attorney. It is his personal qualities that I will speak to. As good as Morris is as a servant-leader, problem-solver, and lawyer, I believe that he is an even better person. And *that* will make him an excellent Deputy Director.

I have known Morris since we studied for (and passed!) the Hawaii State Bar examination in 1984. Over the years—working in private practice, for HART, the Dept. of Land and Natural Resources, the Dept. of Agriculture, and more, as well as enjoying music, conversation, and wine—I've seen Morris demonstrate his deep understanding of and appreciation for what makes Hawaii a very special place, and he conveys that understanding and appreciation to all. It frames his life and his work.

Personally and professionally, I cannot think of anyone better to help carry out the mission of the Department of Agriculture to “further expand the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.”

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly by phone at (808) 542-1542 or by e-mail at gordonarakaki@hawaiiantel.net.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Gordon M. Arakaki

GM-501

Submitted on: 5/13/2020 9:18:58 AM

Testimony for AEN on 5/13/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gladys Quinto Marrone	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Ruderman, and members of the Committee,

My name is Gladys Quinto Marrone and I am submitting this testimony, in my personal capacity, in strong support of the confirmation of Morris Atta as Deputy Director for the Department of Agriculture.

I have had the privilege of knowing Morris from our time at Senate Majority Office, and through the many years since then. You will not find anyone more suited for this position. He has the experience, integrity, and passion to succeed and make agriculture vibrant and sustainable.

I appreciate the opportunity to express my strong support of Morris Atta.

GM-501

Submitted on: 5/13/2020 10:31:40 AM

Testimony for AEN on 5/13/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
VINCENT KIMURA	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This testimony is in STRONG SUPPORT of Morris Atta for Deputy Director of Agriculture for the HDOA.

I'm honored to send this letter of support, over the past several years I've gotten to know Morris Atta, and his track record and professionalism need no explanation as to the degree to which he performs and is respected within the community. He is without a doubt a welcome face, his experience on land-based issues is deep, and core to the success of Hawai'i's agricultural ecosystem.

Thank you,

Vincent Kimura



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT
Wednesday, May 13, 2020 — 1:00 p.m. — Room 016

Ulupono Initiative supports GM 501, submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, Morris Atta, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022

Dear Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

My name is Amy Hennessey, and I am the Senior Vice President of Communications & External Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-based impact investment firm that strives to improve our community's quality of life by creating more locally produced food; increasing affordable clean renewable energy and transportation options; and better managing freshwater and waste resources.

Ulupono supports GM 501. Mr. Atta has been serving as the Acting Deputy Director for the Department of Agriculture since August 2019. Prior to this role, Mr. Atta served as the Land Program Manager at the Department of Agriculture for 2 years. He has held many important public sector roles throughout his career that have prepared him to support the Department of Agriculture as the Deputy Director. His knowledge and expertise will serve the state as we look to increase local food production and develop a more resilient agricultural future for Hawai'i.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Amy Hennessey, APR
Senior Vice President, Communications & External Affairs

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i

David Z. Arakawa
c/o 1100 Alakea St., Suite 408
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phone: 808-521-4718
email: dave.arakawa@gmail.com

May 13, 2020

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Russell E, Ruderman, Vice Chair
and Members of
The Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Strong support of GM 501 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee MORRIS ATTA, for a term to expire at noon, on December 5, 2022.

AEN Hearing: Wednesday, May 13, 2020, at 1:00 p.m., in Conf. Rm. 016

This letter is submitted in **strong support GM 501 and the nomination of Mr. Morris Atta**, for the position of Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture (Department).

I have known Mr. Atta professionally and personally for over twenty years, and have worked with him in his capacity as a Research and Senior Staff Attorney with the State Senate, as the State Lands Administrator for the Department of Land and Natural Resources, as a Deputy Director of the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transit, and as the Agricultural Land Program Manager/Administrator at the Department. Mr. Atta is very knowledgeable regarding state land policies, agricultural and environmental issues and laws, and the legislative process. Over the years, I have had interacted with Mr. Atta in many of these positions and believe that his broad legal and administrative experience as well as his success working on diverse issues relating to government and land use, will surely benefit the Department of Agriculture in the future.

Most recently, I have worked with Mr. Atta in a stakeholder group relating to the Department of Agriculture's initiative and plan to double the Hawaii's food production and on the effort to transfer state agricultural lands to the Department. I also understand that he currently is working on mitigating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Hawaii's agricultural industry and residents – making food normally used for the visitor industry available to Hawaii residents.

For the above reasons, I **strongly support** and respectfully urge your favorable consideration of **Gubernatorial Nominee Morris Atta**; finding him to be qualified for Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture, the position to which he has been nominated, and **respectfully request that your Committee recommend that the Hawaii State Senate advise and consent to his nomination.**

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding Mr. Atta's nomination.

David Z. Arakawa

TESTIMONY OF MORRIS M. ATTA

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

MAY 13, 2020

1:00 P.M.

CONFERENCE ROOM 016

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 501

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION, AS THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, MORRIS M. ATTA, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-05-2022.

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter. I am extremely honored and humbled by this opportunity to serve the people of Hawai`i as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture. I am seeking the privilege to serve in this capacity and join the leadership team that will shape the future of agriculture in Hawai`i because I firmly believe agriculture is the foundation upon which the State's self-sufficiency and sustainability rests.

I come from a family that immigrated from Okinawa in 1955, with strong roots in agriculture that span generations and are geographically dispersed in Hawai`i, Okinawa, Bolivia, and Brazil. I am a proud product of Hawai`i's public education who was fortunate enough to attend Yale University and the New York University School of Law. I view this appointment as an opportunity and privilege to "give back" to my island community and state, all of the blessings I was afforded in my formative years.

As the principal assistant to the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, I believe the Deputy Director's primary duties are to assist in the direction and coordination of day-to-day activities of the Department; relieve the Chairperson of administrative details as assigned; and assume active direction of the Department in her absence. In that role, I must be a collaborative and supportive member of the State's agricultural leadership team and ensure that the Chairperson's and departmental goals and objectives are attained in a timely and thorough manner. I embrace the use of innovative ideas,

technological advances, and creative strategies that can assist our agricultural community in adapting to and overcoming the current economic upheaval caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and any upcoming challenges that may be presented by environmental and other adverse conditions. For example, I have collaborated with Chair Shimabukuro-Geiser to establish an emergency grant program that is in the process of providing nearly \$470,000 in support for farmers in distress to provide timely and critical financial relief to avert farming operation failures.

I believe I am uniquely suited to perform this leadership role in agriculture given my working experience in all three branches of government and extensive professional involvement in agriculture, which was fueled by a lifelong passion and appreciation for agriculture's importance in our society. My legislative background as a Senate Majority research attorney that included agricultural matters grounded my grasp of the legal framework for agriculture under State law. I have extensive administrative experience in managing executive branch agencies in my former positions as the State Lands Administrator and Special Projects Coordinator for the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources, as the Deputy Director for Right-of-Way for the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation, and as the Agricultural Land Program Manager for the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture. Additionally, as a real property attorney for 36 years, I am well versed in dealing with our judicial system and the state and federal laws and regulations pertaining to real property, agriculture, land use, public lands management, native Hawaiian rights, environmental, energy, and natural resources law.

In the role of Deputy Director, I hope to facilitate a collaborative working relationship among the diverse interests in the agricultural community and seek a balanced approach to allocating government resources and efforts to achieve successful outcomes for all administration priorities, and further, to raise the stature of agriculture to its rightful place of pre-eminence in Hawai'i's economy. I seek innovative analytical approaches and solutions to today's challenges to ensure that we can meet the State's goals for attaining food security and sustainability.

I believe public service is a privilege and the ultimate expression of gratitude for the amazing and wonderful opportunities afforded to me as the first American-born child of a family that fled post-war devastation in Okinawa to seek new beginnings in Hawai'i. Mahalo for your time and consideration in this matter.