

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

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 ENVIRONMENT

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

**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 569 SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND
CONFIRMATION TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDES, GUBERNATORIAL
NOMINEE, STEFANIE JEFTS, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2023**

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Governor's Message No. 569. This measure seeks to confirm Stefanie Jelts to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides. The Department of Agriculture strongly supports this measure.

Her expertise is derived from her professional career as a Preserve Manger and Outreach Coordinator with the Nature Conservancy as well as her time as an Oahu Plant Extinction Technician with the Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit, Plant Extinction Prevention Program. Her experience is critical and a true benefit for the State of Hawaii as a member of the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





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 569

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides, Gubernatorial Nominee, STEFANIE JEFTS, for a term to expire 06-30-2023.

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 1,800 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 nomination of Stefanie Jefts as a member of the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

The committee serves a critically important role in Hawaii agriculture as it is tasked to advise and assist the State Department of Agriculture in developing and revising laws and rules regarding pesticides. In addition, the committee serves to advise the Department on pesticide problems, an issue which has recently become of greater interest to the general public.

Ms. Jefts has more than 24 years of experience in conservation as well as 10 years working on a commercial farm. Her extensive background and her years of experience with the Nature Conservancy would be invaluable to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Thank you for your support of Hawaii's farmers and of your consideration of Ms. Stefanie Jefts for appointment to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

GM-569

Submitted on: 5/11/2020 3:35:40 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nicole K Galase	Testifying for Hawaii Cattlemen's Council	Support	No

Comments:

From: [County Farm Bureau](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I support GM569
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 nomination of Stefanie Jefts as a member of the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Ms. Jefts has more than 24 years of experience in conservation as well as 10 years working on a commercial farm. Her extensive background and her years of experience with the Nature Conservancy would be invaluable to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

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

GM-569

Submitted on: 5/11/2020 1:35:58 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:

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

**GM 569, Stefanie Jefts
Advisory Committee on Pesticides
Senate AEN Committee
Wednesday, May 13, 2020
1:00 pm
Conference Room 016**

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

Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Senate AEN Committee:

I am Larry Jefts, owner and operator of Larry Jefts 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.

From a full disclosure perspective, please know that Stefanie Jefts is my daughter-in-law, and serves as the Administrative Assistant for our family-run business.

Prior to working at the farm, her career at The Nature Conservancy demonstrated her commitment to Hawaii's environment and rare and endangered species. In one of her capacities, she worked with hunters, students, youths, and adults through volunteer activities to include weed control using chain saws, digging, and cutting tools, and applying herbicides. She has led ungulate and weed monitoring and trail maintenance teams.

Her experience with the Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit Plant Extinction Prevention Program enabled management of weed control, manual and chemical, out planting, fence building, and control of invertebrate and vertebrate pests. She has experience working with federal and state regulations, and State agencies as well as the US Army and private owners in preserving endangered plants. Her field work has involved the use of pesticides for control purposes to protect native species.

Stefanie Jefts will be an impartial, science-based member of the committee and will provide balanced recommendations to the Pesticides Branch.

Your consideration of Stefanie Jefts nomination to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides is appreciated. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

GM-569

Submitted on: 5/11/2020 3:08:26 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matt	Testifying for Performance Landscapes	Support	No

Comments:

As owner of Performance Landscapes, we continually look for guidance on the safe and effective use of pesticides for our staff and clients. As Committee Chair of the Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii's pesticide training committee, I see this need in the landscape industry, farming and the community in general. Stefanie would make a great addition for her scientific, environmental and practical knowledge of pesticide application.



Young Progressives Demanding Action
P.O. Box 11105
Honolulu, HI 96828

May 13, 2020
1:00 PM

TO: Senate Committee on Agriculture & Environment
RE: Testimony in Opposition to GM 569

Aloha Chair Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair Russell Ruderman, Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture & Environment,

My name is Jun Shin. I am a Sophomore at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, and serve as the Environmental Justice Action Committee Chair for the Young Progressives Demanding Action (YPDA). YPDA advocates for public policies that reflect the values of young people throughout the State of Hawai'i. YPDA is in **Opposition to Governor's Message 569**, the nomination of Stefanie Jefts to the Department of Agriculture's Advisory Committee on Pesticides for a term to expire on 06/30/2023.

According to Hawai'i Revised Statutes §149A-51, membership of the Department of Agriculture's (DOA) Pesticide Advisory Committee includes a representative of an environmental organization. As of October 2019¹, in what appears to be the most recent meeting of the committee, the draft minutes list the nominee as the Environmental Organizations Representative. While we respect the nominee's professional and volunteer experiences with conservation organizations and projects, we are concerned about her close familial connections with one of the users of Restricted Use Pesticides, Sugarland Growers. An interested party that would be impacted by the direction the DOA takes on pesticide use policies.

Membership within the Pesticide Advisory Committee already consists of many industry voices. This is why we seriously need a strong and clear alternative voice for the environment in the room alongside the one representative of the citizen organizations. Ready to contribute to the work, while holding these industries and the Department of Agriculture accountable to our communities. There are many environmental organizations working on protecting our natural

¹ <http://hdoa.hawaii.gov/blog/main/acpmtgs/>

resources, sustainable farming, food security, and other related issues to the work of the committee who would be ready to step up and assist in finding a new nominee.

Young Progressives Demanding Action is in **Opposition** to **GM 569**. We respectfully ask for you to **HOLD** this nomination.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Jun Shin,
Environmental Justice Action Committee Chair
Young Progressives Demanding Action (YPDA)
Cell: 808-255-6663
Email: junshinbusiness729@gmail.com
CC: action@ypdahawaii.org

GM-569

Submitted on: 5/8/2020 3:01:37 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

GM-569

Submitted on: 5/11/2020 11:10:29 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-569

Submitted on: 5/11/2020 11:35:04 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-569

Submitted on: 5/11/2020 4:14:09 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:

From: [Ron Kauha"aha"a](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I support GM569
Date: Monday, May 11, 2020 2:50:07 PM

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the nomination of Stefanie Jefts as a member of the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Ms. Jefts has more than 24 years of experience in conservation as well as 10 years working on a commercial farm. Her extensive background and her years of experience with the Nature Conservancy would be invaluable to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

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

From: [Roy Asao](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I support GM569
Date: Monday, May 11, 2020 2:50:07 PM

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the nomination of Stefanie Jefts as a member of the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Ms. Jefts has more than 24 years of experience in conservation as well as 10 years working on a commercial farm. Her extensive background and her years of experience with the Nature Conservancy would be invaluable to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

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

From: [Laurie Ho](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I support GM569
Date: Monday, May 11, 2020 3:00:09 PM

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the nomination of Stefanie Jefts as a member of the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Ms. Jefts has more than 24 years of experience in conservation as well as 10 years working on a commercial farm. Her extensive background and her years of experience with the Nature Conservancy would be invaluable to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

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

From: [Stephanie whalen](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I support GM569
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 nomination of Stefanie Jefts as a member of the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Ms. Jefts has more than 24 years of experience in conservation as well as 10 years working on a commercial farm. Her extensive background and her years of experience with the Nature Conservancy would be invaluable to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

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

From: [Randy Cabral](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I support GM569
Date: Monday, May 11, 2020 3:30:05 PM

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the nomination of Stefanie Jefts as a member of the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Ms. Jefts has more than 24 years of experience in conservation as well as 10 years working on a commercial farm. Her extensive background and her years of experience with the Nature Conservancy would be invaluable to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Randy Cabral
KHK RANCH LLC
PO BOX 337
VOLCANO, HI 96785
kaiwiki.1970@gmail.com

From: [Michelle Gorham](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I support GM569
Date: Monday, May 11, 2020 3:30:11 PM

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the nomination of Stefanie Jefts as a member of the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Ms. Jefts has more than 24 years of experience in conservation as well as 10 years working on a commercial farm. Her extensive background and her years of experience with the Nature Conservancy would be invaluable to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

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

From: [Sandi Kato-Klutke](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I support GM569
Date: Monday, May 11, 2020 4:10:04 PM

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the nomination of Stefanie Jefts as a member of the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Ms. Jefts has more than 24 years of experience in conservation as well as 10 years working on a commercial farm. Her extensive background and her years of experience with the Nature Conservancy would be invaluable to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

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

From: [Warren Watanabe](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I support GM569
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 nomination of Stefanie Jefts as a member of the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Ms. Jefts has more than 24 years of experience in conservation as well as 10 years working on a commercial farm. Her extensive background and her years of experience with the Nature Conservancy would be invaluable to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

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

From: [Glenn Toyama](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I support GM569
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 nomination of Stefanie Jefts as a member of the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Ms. Jefts has more than 24 years of experience in conservation as well as 10 years working on a commercial farm. Her extensive background and her years of experience with the Nature Conservancy would be invaluable to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

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 GM569
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 nomination of Stefanie Jefts as a member of the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Ms. Jefts has more than 24 years of experience in conservation as well as 10 years working on a commercial farm. Her extensive background and her years of experience with the Nature Conservancy would be invaluable to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

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 GM569
Date: Monday, May 11, 2020 7:30:04 PM

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the nomination of Stefanie Jefts as a member of the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Ms. Jefts has more than 24 years of experience in conservation as well as 10 years working on a commercial farm. Her extensive background and her years of experience with the Nature Conservancy would be invaluable to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

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

From: [Laura Ramirez](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to Stefanie Jefts nomination
Date: Monday, May 11, 2020 8:24:49 PM

Aloha,

It is bad enough that on the Advisory Committee for PESTICIDES there is only ONE SEAT for an environmental organization. There are representatives for sugar and pineapple and pest control industries and every other major user of pesticides. But to then nominate Stefanie Jefts, the wife of Sugarland Growers Director, for the one seat that should be a voice of protection and safety for the environment shows a blatant disregard for balance and fairness. Sugarland Growers purchased over 600 LBS and over 4,000 GALLONS of Restricted use pesticides in 2019 alone! I oppose this appointment because it is an egregious conflict of interest.

Mahalo,

Laura Ramirez and the Bettencourt family
4510 Kawaihau Road
Kapa'a, Kaua'i

From: [LUANA BECK](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I support GM569
Date: Monday, May 11, 2020 10:40:04 PM

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the nomination of Stefanie Jefts as a member of the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Ms. Jefts has more than 24 years of experience in conservation as well as 10 years working on a commercial farm. Her extensive background and her years of experience with the Nature Conservancy would be invaluable to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

LUANA BECK
Owner
Hooluana Ranch
PO Box 711510
Mountain View, HI 96771
holuanaranch@yahoo.om

From: [Elton Mow](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I support GM569
Date: Monday, May 11, 2020 11:30:07 PM

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the nomination of Stefanie Jefts as a member of the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Ms. Jefts has more than 24 years of experience in conservation as well as 10 years working on a commercial farm. Her extensive background and her years of experience with the Nature Conservancy would be invaluable to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

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

From: [Fern A Holland](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Appointment for Pesticide Advisory Board
Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 6:50:50 AM

Aloha,

Mahalo for considering my comments regarding the appointment of Stefanie Jefts for the Pesticide Advisory Board.

It is completely inappropriate for the one seat dedicated for an environmental organization to be filled with someone with such a conflict of interest. Stefanie Jefts, being the wife of the director of Sugarland Growers, one of the largest users of restricted use pesticides in the State of Hawai'i does not represent the seat needing to be filled. This is the one seat meant for an environmental organization representative and it's outrageous that it's not being filled appropriately.

Sugarland is the growing operation that purchased over 600 pounds and over 4,000 Gallons of Restricted Use Pesticides in 2019 alone!

This is not a personal opposition of Stefanie Jefts it is simply a blatant conflict and not right for this one environmental seat to be instead filled with another chemical heavyweight in an already stacked deck for the chemical companies.

In a state with no shortage of environmental organizations who could be at the table, this appointment seems purposeful and absolutely inappropriate.

Mahalo,

Fern A Holland BSc
Environmental Scientist & Community Organizer

From: [Helena Miguel](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I support GM569
Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 7:40:11 AM

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the nomination of Stefanie Jefts as a member of the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Ms. Jefts has more than 24 years of experience in conservation as well as 10 years working on a commercial farm. Her extensive background and her years of experience with the Nature Conservancy would be invaluable to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

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

From: [Melissa Snyder](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony for Pesticide Advisory Board appointee
Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 7:48:19 AM

Mahalo for considering my comments regarding the appointment of Stefanie Jefts for the Pesticide Advisory Board.

It is completely inappropriate for the one seat dedicated for an environmental organization to be filled with someone with such a conflict of interest. Stefanie Jefts, being the wife of the director of Sugarland Growers, one of the largest users of restricted use pesticides in the State of Hawai'i does not represent the seat needing to be filled. This is the one seat meant for an environmental organization representative and it's outrageous that it's not being filled appropriately.

Sugarland is the growing operation that purchased over 600 pounds and over 4,000 Gallons of Restricted Use Pesticides in 2019 alone!

This is not a personal opposition of Stefanie Jefts it is simply a blatant conflict and not right for this one environmental seat to be instead filled with another chemical heavyweight in an already stacked deck for the chemical companies.

In a state with no shortage of environmental organizations who could be at the table, this appointment seems purposeful and absolutely inappropriate.

Mahalo!

- Melissa Nash
Project Director - Stellar Gardens
8083462858

From: [Laurie Yoshida](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I support GM569
Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 8:50:11 AM

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the nomination of Stefanie Jefts as a member of the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Ms. Jefts has more than 24 years of experience in conservation as well as 10 years working on a commercial farm. Her extensive background and her years of experience with the Nature Conservancy would be invaluable to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Laurie Yoshida
PO Box 3717
Lihue, HI 96766
lauriyoshida@gmail.com

From: [Melvin Kunitake](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I support GM569
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 nomination of Stefanie Jefts as a member of the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Ms. Jefts has more than 24 years of experience in conservation as well as 10 years working on a commercial farm. Her extensive background and her years of experience with the Nature Conservancy would be invaluable to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

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 GM569
Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 12:40:09 PM

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the nomination of Stefanie Jefts as a member of the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Ms. Jefts has more than 24 years of experience in conservation as well as 10 years working on a commercial farm. Her extensive background and her years of experience with the Nature Conservancy would be invaluable to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

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

From: [Michelle Starke](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I support GM569
Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 2:30:10 PM

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the nomination of Stefanie Jefts as a member of the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Ms. Jefts has more than 24 years of experience in conservation as well as 10 years working on a commercial farm. Her extensive background and her years of experience with the Nature Conservancy would be invaluable to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

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

AEN Questionnaire Responses from Stefanie Jefts (GM 569)

(1) Why do you wish to be a member of the Advisory Committee on Pesticides?

To help propose objective solutions and/or recommendations on certain matters via collaborative discussions from an environmental and agricultural perspective.

(2) How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Advisory Committee on Pesticides?

The role and responsibilities of a member of the Advisory Committee on Pesticides is to bring objective and balanced recommendations on diversified agriculture, taking into consideration what it takes to cultivate crops to feed the local people while also looking at how practices impact the environment positively and negatively.

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

I worked in the environmental and conservation sector for 20 years and have a bachelor degree in environmental studies. I also worked in the commercial agricultural sector for 10 years. I have perspectives of the goals, challenges and concerns in both areas.

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

I hope to humbly serve the community by providing objective recommendations while striking a balance between commercial agriculture needs and conservation of the limited and precious resources (i.e. environment).

(5) Name three qualities that best describe you and that would make you stand out. How would these qualities benefit the Advisory Committee on Pesticides?

1. open-minded - willing to listen to and discuss different perspectives, compromise and understand the facts objectively
2. humble - don't want to stand out and hope to bring a balanced perspective
3. positive - hopeful that the advisory committee can communicate cooperatively to work together for the care and well being of the community

(6) Name one previous experience that would make you stand out. How would this benefit the Advisory Committee on Pesticides?

none

(7) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your service on the Advisory Committee on Pesticides? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?

No. I believe that being open-minded and having perspectives from the environmental and agricultural sectors will keep me from leaning towards one side or another.