

**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 to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, FREDERICK LAU, for a term to expire 06-30-2020

Aloha Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee,

The Agribusiness Development Corporation ("ADC") supports Mr. Frederick Lau's appointment to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Mr. Lau is well qualified to be confirmed on the Board of Directors of the ADC. He has extensive commercial agriculture experience gained as the owner of Mari's Gardens, the largest Oahu aquaponic/hydroponic farm, and from over 30 years in commercial landscaping. This broad agriculture development experience will serve the ADC well. For these reasons, we respectfully ask for your support of Mr. Lau's appointment to serve on the Board of Directors of the ADC. Note: a conflict of interest situation could arise as Mr. Lau is a potential vendor for ADC's Greenhouse Demonstration Project scheduled for 2020.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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

May 13, 2020

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

**TESTIMONY ON GM 642 & GM 643**

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, FREDERICK LAU, 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 Mr. Fredick Lau to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.**

Mr. Lau has more than 33 years of experience in the Landscape Industry. He also has operated an ornamental nursery for 23 years. In 2008, Mr. Lau founded Mari's Garden, a successful farm and retail nursery operation that specializes in hydroponic lettuce and aquaponic vegetable production.

Mr. Lau's extensive background and his years of experience would be invaluable to ADC as they continue to fulfill their mission of continuing to assist Hawaii's transition from plantation agriculture to smaller diversified agricultural operations.

Please accept our strong support for the nomination of Mr. Fredick Lau to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

**GM-642**

Submitted on: 5/11/2020 1:43:38 PM

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

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

Comments:

I have know Fred Lau for a number of years. He is a well respected member of Hawaii's Agricultral Industry. Mr. Lau would make an excellent addition to the ADC Board.

**GM-642**

Submitted on: 5/11/2020 3:36:16 PM

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

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

Comments:

**From:** [County Farm Bureau](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support GM642 and 643  
**Date:** Monday, May 11, 2020 3:20:07 PM

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Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the nomination of Mr. Fredick Lau to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Mr. Lau has more than 33 years of experience in the Landscape Industry. He also has operated an ornamental nursery for 23 years. In 2008, Mr. Lau founded Mari's Garden, a successful farm and retail nursery operation that specializes in hydroponic lettuce and aquaponic vegetable production.

Mr. Lau's extensive background and his years of experience would be invaluable to ADC as they continue to fulfill their mission of continuing to assist Hawaii's transition from plantation agriculture to smaller diversified agricultural operations.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

County Farm Bureau  
6170 Hauiki Rd Unit G  
Kapaa, HI 96746  
[jerrysfarmkauai@gmail.com](mailto:jerrysfarmkauai@gmail.com)

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

**GM 642, GM643, Frederick Lau  
Agribusiness Development Corporation  
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.

Fred Lau's nomination to the ADC Board of Directors is supported. He brings his successful experience of using technology and innovation to farming with his 18-acre aquaponics farm in Mililani, Mari's Garden. This goes well with ADC's mission to acquire, and manage in partnership with farmers, ranchers, and aquaculture groups, selected high-value lands, water systems, and infrastructure for commercial agricultural use and to direct research into areas that will lead to the development of new crops, markets, and lower production costs.

The Covid-19 pandemic has focused a mega-spotlight on the need to support local agriculture for food sustainability. Fred Lau has said, "A large part of sustainability also has to do with a farmer being able to withstand the economics of growing food. Faced with the higher cost of production, Hawaii-grown produce generally costs more than mainland produce on our market shelves." "If people can look past the slightly higher price of locally grown produce and realize that it has a longer shelf life (because it has not had to be shipped over water for seven days), it has more nutrients (because plant nutrients break down during shipping) and it helps keep food dollars in our community by supporting farms (keeping land in farming), farm workers (who also pay taxes) and the farmer (who has to make a living or they will not be able to farm)."

<https://www.hawaiiagfoundation.org/local-inside-csa/farms/maris-gardens/>

Please support Frederick Lau's nomination to the Agribusiness Development Corporation. Thank you for your consideration.

**GM-642**

Submitted on: 5/11/2020 3:12:28 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Matt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Fred is a knowledgeable and successful business leader in the Landcape and Agricultural Industries. I support his nomination.



**GM-642**

Submitted on: 5/11/2020 4:15:08 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ronald Weidenbach	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**GM-642**

Submitted on: 5/11/2020 6:30:36 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mae Nakahata	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**GM-642**

Submitted on: 5/12/2020 3:10:44 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alan Takemoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**From:** [Ron Kauha'aha'a](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support GM642 and 643  
**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 nomination of Mr. Fredick Lau to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Mr. Lau has more than 33 years of experience in the Landscape Industry. He also has operated an ornamental nursery for 23 years. In 2008, Mr. Lau founded Mari's Garden, a successful farm and retail nursery operation that specializes in hydroponic lettuce and aquaponic vegetable production.

Mr. Lau's extensive background and his years of experience would be invaluable to ADC as they continue to fulfill their mission of continuing to assist Hawaii's transition from plantation agriculture to smaller diversified agricultural operations.

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.kauhaahaa@nutrien.com](mailto:ron.kauhaahaa@nutrien.com)

**From:** [Roy Asao](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support GM642 and 643  
**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 nomination of Mr. Fredick Lau to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Mr. Lau has more than 33 years of experience in the Landscape Industry. He also has operated an ornamental nursery for 23 years. In 2008, Mr. Lau founded Mari's Garden, a successful farm and retail nursery operation that specializes in hydroponic lettuce and aquaponic vegetable production.

Mr. Lau's extensive background and his years of experience would be invaluable to ADC as they continue to fulfill their mission of continuing to assist Hawaii's transition from plantation agriculture to smaller diversified agricultural operations.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Roy Asao  
1323 Olin St  
Honolulu, HI 96818  
[rasao777@aol.com](mailto:rasao777@aol.com)

**From:** [Laurie Ho](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support GM642 and 643  
**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 Mr. Fredick Lau to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Mr. Lau has more than 33 years of experience in the Landscape Industry. He also has operated an ornamental nursery for 23 years. In 2008, Mr. Lau founded Mari's Garden, a successful farm and retail nursery operation that specializes in hydroponic lettuce and aquaponic vegetable production.

Mr. Lau's extensive background and his years of experience would be invaluable to ADC as they continue to fulfill their mission of continuing to assist Hawaii's transition from plantation agriculture to smaller diversified agricultural operations.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

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 GM642 and 643  
**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 nomination of Mr. Fredick Lau to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Mr. Lau has more than 33 years of experience in the Landscape Industry. He also has operated an ornamental nursery for 23 years. In 2008, Mr. Lau founded Mari's Garden, a successful farm and retail nursery operation that specializes in hydroponic lettuce and aquaponic vegetable production.

Mr. Lau's extensive background and his years of experience would be invaluable to ADC as they continue to fulfill their mission of continuing to assist Hawaii's transition from plantation agriculture to smaller diversified agricultural operations.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Stephanie whalen  
Ex Dir  
HARC  
PO Box 64  
Kunia, HI 96759  
[whaleinn1944@gmail.com](mailto:whaleinn1944@gmail.com)

**From:** [Iris Mizuguchi](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support GM642 and 643  
**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 Mr. Fredick Lau to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Mr. Lau has more than 33 years of experience in the Landscape Industry. He also has operated an ornamental nursery for 23 years. In 2008, Mr. Lau founded Mari's Garden, a successful farm and retail nursery operation that specializes in hydroponic lettuce and aquaponic vegetable production.

Mr. Lau's extensive background and his years of experience would be invaluable to ADC as they continue to fulfill their mission of continuing to assist Hawaii's transition from plantation agriculture to smaller diversified agricultural operations.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Iris Mizuguchi  
PO Box 253  
Kunia, HI 96759  
[irisymiz@gmail.com](mailto:irisymiz@gmail.com)



**From:** [Michelle Gorham](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support GM642 and 643  
**Date:** Monday, May 11, 2020 3:30:07 PM

---

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the nomination of Mr. Fredick Lau to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Mr. Lau has more than 33 years of experience in the Landscape Industry. He also has operated an ornamental nursery for 23 years. In 2008, Mr. Lau founded Mari's Garden, a successful farm and retail nursery operation that specializes in hydroponic lettuce and aquaponic vegetable production.

Mr. Lau's extensive background and his years of experience would be invaluable to ADC as they continue to fulfill their mission of continuing to assist Hawaii's transition from plantation agriculture to smaller diversified agricultural operations.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Michelle Gorham  
1813 10th Ave Apt A  
Honolulu, HI 96816  
[michelle.gorham@gmail.com](mailto:michelle.gorham@gmail.com)

**From:** [Randy Cabral](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support GM642 and 643  
**Date:** Monday, May 11, 2020 3:30:09 PM

---

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the nomination of Mr. Fredick Lau to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Mr. Lau has more than 33 years of experience in the Landscape Industry. He also has operated an ornamental nursery for 23 years. In 2008, Mr. Lau founded Mari's Garden, a successful farm and retail nursery operation that specializes in hydroponic lettuce and aquaponic vegetable production.

Mr. Lau's extensive background and his years of experience would be invaluable to ADC as they continue to fulfill their mission of continuing to assist Hawaii's transition from plantation agriculture to smaller diversified agricultural operations.

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:** [Sandi Kato-Klutke](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support GM642 and 643  
**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 Mr. Fredick Lau to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Mr. Lau has more than 33 years of experience in the Landscape Industry. He also has operated an ornamental nursery for 23 years. In 2008, Mr. Lau founded Mari's Garden, a successful farm and retail nursery operation that specializes in hydroponic lettuce and aquaponic vegetable production.

Mr. Lau's extensive background and his years of experience would be invaluable to ADC as they continue to fulfill their mission of continuing to assist Hawaii's transition from plantation agriculture to smaller diversified agricultural operations.

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 GM642 and 643  
**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 nomination of Mr. Fredick Lau to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Mr. Lau has more than 33 years of experience in the Landscape Industry. He also has operated an ornamental nursery for 23 years. In 2008, Mr. Lau founded Mari's Garden, a successful farm and retail nursery operation that specializes in hydroponic lettuce and aquaponic vegetable production.

Mr. Lau's extensive background and his years of experience would be invaluable to ADC as they continue to fulfill their mission of continuing to assist Hawaii's transition from plantation agriculture to smaller diversified agricultural operations.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

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

**From:** [Aileen Yeh](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support GM642 and 643  
**Date:** Monday, May 11, 2020 4:50:07 PM

---

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the nomination of Mr. Fredick Lau to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Mr. Lau has more than 33 years of experience in the Landscape Industry. He also has operated an ornamental nursery for 23 years. In 2008, Mr. Lau founded Mari's Garden, a successful farm and retail nursery operation that specializes in hydroponic lettuce and aquaponic vegetable production.

Mr. Lau's extensive background and his years of experience would be invaluable to ADC as they continue to fulfill their mission of continuing to assist Hawaii's transition from plantation agriculture to smaller diversified agricultural operations.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

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

**From:** [Glenn Toyama](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support GM642 and 643  
**Date:** Monday, May 11, 2020 5:10:04 PM

---

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the nomination of Mr. Fredick Lau to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Mr. Lau has more than 33 years of experience in the Landscape Industry. He also has operated an ornamental nursery for 23 years. In 2008, Mr. Lau founded Mari's Garden, a successful farm and retail nursery operation that specializes in hydroponic lettuce and aquaponic vegetable production.

Mr. Lau's extensive background and his years of experience would be invaluable to ADC as they continue to fulfill their mission of continuing to assist Hawaii's transition from plantation agriculture to smaller diversified agricultural operations.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

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

**From:** [John Gordines](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support GM642 and 643  
**Date:** Monday, May 11, 2020 7:00:04 PM

---

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the nomination of Mr. Fredick Lau to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Mr. Lau has more than 33 years of experience in the Landscape Industry. He also has operated an ornamental nursery for 23 years. In 2008, Mr. Lau founded Mari's Garden, a successful farm and retail nursery operation that specializes in hydroponic lettuce and aquaponic vegetable production.

Mr. Lau's extensive background and his years of experience would be invaluable to ADC as they continue to fulfill their mission of continuing to assist Hawaii's transition from plantation agriculture to smaller diversified agricultural operations.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

John Gordines  
TROPICAL FLOWERS EXPRESS  
6721 Kawaihau Rd  
Kapaa, HI 96746  
[gordines@kauaiflowers.com](mailto:gordines@kauaiflowers.com)

**From:** [Dean Okimoto](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support GM642 and 643  
**Date:** Monday, May 11, 2020 7:50:04 PM

---

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the nomination of Mr. Fredick Lau to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Mr. Lau has more than 33 years of experience in the Landscape Industry. He also has operated an ornamental nursery for 23 years. In 2008, Mr. Lau founded Mari's Garden, a successful farm and retail nursery operation that specializes in hydroponic lettuce and aquaponic vegetable production.

Mr. Lau's extensive background and his years of experience would be invaluable to ADC as they continue to fulfill their mission of continuing to assist Hawaii's transition from plantation agriculture to smaller diversified agricultural operations.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

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



**From:** [LUANA BECK](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support GM642 and 643  
**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 Mr. Fredick Lau to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Mr. Lau has more than 33 years of experience in the Landscape Industry. He also has operated an ornamental nursery for 23 years. In 2008, Mr. Lau founded Mari's Garden, a successful farm and retail nursery operation that specializes in hydroponic lettuce and aquaponic vegetable production.

Mr. Lau's extensive background and his years of experience would be invaluable to ADC as they continue to fulfill their mission of continuing to assist Hawaii's transition from plantation agriculture to smaller diversified agricultural operations.

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 GM642 and 643  
**Date:** Monday, May 11, 2020 11:30:06 PM

---

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the nomination of Mr. Fredick Lau to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Mr. Lau has more than 33 years of experience in the Landscape Industry. He also has operated an ornamental nursery for 23 years. In 2008, Mr. Lau founded Mari's Garden, a successful farm and retail nursery operation that specializes in hydroponic lettuce and aquaponic vegetable production.

Mr. Lau's extensive background and his years of experience would be invaluable to ADC as they continue to fulfill their mission of continuing to assist Hawaii's transition from plantation agriculture to smaller diversified agricultural operations.

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:** [Alvin Tsuruda](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support GM642 and 643  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 7:10:19 AM

---

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the nomination of Mr. Fredick Lau to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Mr. Lau has more than 33 years of experience in the Landscape Industry. He also has operated an ornamental nursery for 23 years. In 2008, Mr. Lau founded Mari's Garden, a successful farm and retail nursery operation that specializes in hydroponic lettuce and aquaponic vegetable production.

Mr. Lau's extensive background and his years of experience would be invaluable to ADC as they continue to fulfill their mission of continuing to assist Hawaii's transition from plantation agriculture to smaller diversified agricultural operations.

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:** [Helena Miguel](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support GM642 and 643  
**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 Mr. Fredick Lau to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Mr. Lau has more than 33 years of experience in the Landscape Industry. He also has operated an ornamental nursery for 23 years. In 2008, Mr. Lau founded Mari's Garden, a successful farm and retail nursery operation that specializes in hydroponic lettuce and aquaponic vegetable production.

Mr. Lau's extensive background and his years of experience would be invaluable to ADC as they continue to fulfill their mission of continuing to assist Hawaii's transition from plantation agriculture to smaller diversified agricultural operations.

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](mailto:helena.miguel@bayer.com)

**From:** [Melvin Kunitake](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support GM642 and 643  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 9:00:15 AM

---

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the nomination of Mr. Fredick Lau to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Mr. Lau has more than 33 years of experience in the Landscape Industry. He also has operated an ornamental nursery for 23 years. In 2008, Mr. Lau founded Mari's Garden, a successful farm and retail nursery operation that specializes in hydroponic lettuce and aquaponic vegetable production.

Mr. Lau's extensive background and his years of experience would be invaluable to ADC as they continue to fulfill their mission of continuing to assist Hawaii's transition from plantation agriculture to smaller diversified agricultural operations.

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 GM642 and 643  
**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 nomination of Mr. Fredick Lau to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Mr. Lau has more than 33 years of experience in the Landscape Industry. He also has operated an ornamental nursery for 23 years. In 2008, Mr. Lau founded Mari's Garden, a successful farm and retail nursery operation that specializes in hydroponic lettuce and aquaponic vegetable production.

Mr. Lau's extensive background and his years of experience would be invaluable to ADC as they continue to fulfill their mission of continuing to assist Hawaii's transition from plantation agriculture to smaller diversified agricultural operations.

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 GM642 and 643  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 2:30:13 PM

---

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the nomination of Mr. Fredick Lau to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Mr. Lau has more than 33 years of experience in the Landscape Industry. He also has operated an ornamental nursery for 23 years. In 2008, Mr. Lau founded Mari's Garden, a successful farm and retail nursery operation that specializes in hydroponic lettuce and aquaponic vegetable production.

Mr. Lau's extensive background and his years of experience would be invaluable to ADC as they continue to fulfill their mission of continuing to assist Hawaii's transition from plantation agriculture to smaller diversified agricultural operations.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Michelle Starke  
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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
HERBERT M. "TIM" RICHARDS, III	Testifying for Hawaii County Council	Support	No

Comments:



May 11, 2020

Senator Mike Gabbard

Chair, Agriculture and Environment Committee

Hawaii State Capitol, Room 201

Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Frederick Lau

171 Waokanaka Place

Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

Senator Gabbard,

It is an honor to be nominated by Governor Ige to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation. Please find my answers to your questions below.

1. I would like to become a board member of the ADC because I believe that my experience in agriculture and farming over the last 44 years have been extremely valuable and can best shared and utilized to promote the development of this economic sector. Now more than ever, it is imperative that our State invest in and help to develop the food security infrastructure for Hawaii and the ADC should be at the forefront of this movement.
2. The Board of Directors of the ADC should provide and be the proponents of the direction and strategy to promote agricultural development in Hawaii. The board members need to be able to interact with the Executive Director in order to make decisions that are in the best interest of both the Agricultural community and the people of Hawaii. The ADC has just begun to lay the foundation to increase food production with the recent land acquisitions in Central O'ahu. It is important that we protect and develop those investments. In addition, ADC lands on the outer islands must be developed for farming. There is a lot of work to do and it needs to be done efficiently.
3. I have been involved in agriculture all of my life, working as a nursery laborer during high school, attending CTAHR from 1972 – 1976 until starting my first nursery business in 1976. I have been a landscape contractor in Hawaii since 1980. In 1987 I formed a sole proprietorship landscape construction company which has become one of the largest in the State. We own and manage two nurseries on O'ahu with over 40 acres of ornamental landscape plants. In 1987 I developed Makakilo Nursery located in Kapolei, Hawaii. In 2008 I developed Maris Gardens LLC in Mililani, Hawaii. In 2010 we began farming 3 acres (of our 18 acre nursery in Mililani) using aquaponic and hydroponic growing methods. I am committed to developing high tech and environmentally low impact solutions for food production in Hawaii. I believe that my research

and travels to farms around the world have provide me with the knowledge that could help Hawaii in its goal to become food secure.

4. I hope that we can help develop many diversified agricultural entities on all of the islands, but my main interests are to 1. Continue to develop a strategic plan to increase food production on O'ahu and the outer islands, 2. Help develop and construct a value-added facility which will allow farmers to create products that can be branded and exported while extending the shelf life of their produce, 3. Promote agricultural education as a career track for our intermediate, high school and college students, 4. Insure that "Farm to State" programs are implemented and one of the largest importers of food, our State government, begins to "Buy Local". There are many other priorities to consider, but these four items are very high on my list to accomplish and the ground work has already been laid, we just need to finish strong.
5. I consider myself a good listener, focused and analytical.
6. I have been an entrepreneur all of my life and have built several successful businesses, all of which are still operating today. I think bringing a business acumen along with an agricultural background into the Board is beneficial.
7. I have been involved with a past DOA project to develop a "One Acre Aquaponic Greenhouse" with the intent of studying the economic feasibility of aquaponic and hydroponic growing methods in Hawaii. We are also looking at a project with the ADC to study and develop a "Tropical Greenhouse" built specifically for growing temperate climate produce in our tropical conditions. Should any decisions or voting on this project or future ADC projects that my company is interested in submitting a proposal to perform the work, I would reclude myself from the meeting or any votes.