

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



JAMES J. NAKATANI
Executive Director

STATE OF HAWAII
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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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, KAREN
SEDDON, for a term to expire 06-30-2023

Aloha Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee,

The Agribusiness Development Corporation (“ADC”) supports Ms. Karen Seddon’s appointment to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Ms. Seddon is well qualified to be confirmed on the Board of Directors of the ADC. She has extensive commercial development experience gained as the Vice President of Development for the Michaels Development Company which specializes in development, management, construction and financing of community development projects. She has also served as the Executive Director of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation and Director of Land Development at DR Horton. This broad development experience will serve

the ADC well. For these reasons, we respectfully ask for your support of Ms. Seddon's appointment to serve on the Board of Directors of the ADC.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

GM-644

Submitted on: 5/11/2020 12:33:35 PM

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

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

Comments:

I convey my strong support for confirmation of Ms. Karen Seddon to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i State Agribusiness Development Corporation. I have had the opportunity to work alongside Ms. Seddon since 2013, and have found she has exceptional financial and business skills, which would serve the public interest very well in this capacity. In addition, she has first-hand experience with construction, entitlement and government administration throughout the state ... and I've just learned she comes from a family farm upbringing. I can't imagine there is a more ideal candidate for this role.

Thank you for allowing me to submit this testimony.

Aloha, Ann M. Bouslog, Project Director, PBR HAWAII

TESTIMONY
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hearing on May 13, 2020, 1PM, Conf Rm 016
Hawaii State Capitol, 415 S. Beretania Street

May 08, 2020

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair

RE: Nomination of Karen Seddon to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT** of **Karen Seddon's** confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Ms. Seddon brings a wealth of experience that spans her career in the public and private sector. She spent several years as Development Branch Chief and Executive Director of the Hawaii Housing and Finance Development Corporation (HHFDC). As a developer in the private sector, she is well respected and generates results. Affordable housing in Hawaii has benefited greatly because of her efforts.

She is a proven leader and her leadership qualities include accountability, commitment, creativity, decisiveness, focus, integrity, optimism, and vision. I urge you to support her confirmation to the Agribusiness Development Corporation Board of Directors.



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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) 644

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

I strongly support the nomination of Ms. Karen Seddon to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC).

I have known Ms. Seddon, professionally and personally for over 10 years, and have had the opportunity to work directly with her during our respective careers. Specifically, during my tenure as the Director of the Office of Planning, I have had the opportunity to work with her in various projects and initiatives. Her diligent work, high level of integrity, breadth of knowledge and experience, and holistic approach are just a few of the key assets that she will bring to the ADC Board.

Ms. Seddon has gained my trust and respect as someone that will uphold the highest levels of leadership, and there is no question that she will greatly contribute and apply her passion, knowledge and experiences to the work of the ADC Board.

I respectfully encourage the Committee to advise and consent to the nomination of Ms. Karen Seddon as a member of the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on GM 644.

Agriculture and Environment Committee

Nomination: Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation

Questions Response

Karen Seddon (GM 644)

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

Being a member of the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation is an opportunity to share my skill sets and energy to meaningfully contribute to the Corporation and its mission.

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

The role of each member is to work with the other members of the Board of Directors to maintain the Corporation's mission by constantly going back to two important questions when considering matters before the Board of Directors - 1) "What is the mission?" and 2) "Does this action serve the mission?"

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

After attaining a Bachelor of Science in Construction Engineering Management, supplemented with a Master of Business Administration, my work experience includes both private and public management and leadership positions. Since 2014 my work experience at The Michaels Organization has included leadership in the planning, design, finance, entitlement, and construction of affordable housing in the private sector. From 2006 to 2013, my work experience was in the public sector with management of the State Housing Finance Agency dedicated to finance and development of affordable housing.

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

Success during my term of service on the Board of Directors will be assisting the Agribusiness Development Corporation to advance its unique position to coordinate federal, state and private resources to develop agribusiness opportunities for agricultural enterprises.

(5) Name three qualities that best describe you and that would make you stand out. How would these qualities benefit the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation?

My leadership qualities include confidence, focus, decisiveness, and accountability which will benefit the business of the Board of Directors.

Board of Director members with excellence in mind view boards through a strategic lens, as opposed to an operational lens, which includes short- and long-range planning, along with goal setting. The Board of Directors primary role is that of strategic planner and overseer that maintains a balance of duties where its members oversee senior management and staff activities without micromanaging them.

It is a board members responsibility to attend meetings well-prepared, ready to ask the hard questions and use active listening with respect and acknowledgement of others' opinions in determining the matters on the agenda. Collaborating and challenging concepts and proposals bring out the best in a board's decision-making.

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

Having been an Executive Director of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation, I am familiar with the idiosyncrasies of state government and the workings of public private partnerships, which are also utilized by the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

(7) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your service on the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?

I do not anticipate any conflicts of interests. If a situation presents itself that could be a conflict of interest, I will recuse myself from any decisions on the matter and if there is any ambiguity, a review by the Ethics Commission will be requested.