

**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, KEVIN  
HOPKINS, for a term to expire 06-30-2022

Aloha Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee,

The Agribusiness Development Corporation (“ADC”) supports Mr. Kevin Hopkins’s appointment to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Mr. Hopkins is well qualified to be confirmed on the Board of Directors of the ADC. He has extensive agriculture (aquaculture) experience gained as the Director of the Pacific Aquaculture and Coastal Resources Center and the President of the US Aquaculture Society. He is also active as a Professor of Aquaculture at the UH Hilo College of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resource Management. This broad agriculture experience will serve the ADC well. For these reasons, we respectfully ask for your support of Mr. Hopkin’s appointment to serve on the Board of Directors of the ADC.

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@hbf.org](mailto:info@hbf.org); [www.hbf.org](http://www.hbf.org)

May 13, 2020

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

**TESTIMONY ON GM 645**

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation gubernatorial nominee, Kevin Hopkins, for a term to expire 06-30-2022.

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 Kevin Hopkins to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.**

Dr. Hopkins is the ideal candidate for membership on the board of directors of the ADC. Our members have had the opportunity to work with Dr. Hopkins and have been extremely impressed by his knowledge and helpfulness. His impressive academic achievements as well as his extensive and successful work experience assure the public that he will be an important and beneficial part of the ADC.

As a farmer-based organization, HFB appreciates Dr. Hopkins longtime support for and commitment to the success of Hawaii's agriculture and aquaculture enterprises. We look forward to working with him as Hawaii's producers strive to move our state closer to food self-sufficiency.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer our strong support for Dr. Hopkins.

**GM-645**

Submitted on: 5/11/2020 3:37:50 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 GM645  
**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 Kevin Hopkins to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Dr. Hopkins is the ideal candidate for membership on the board of directors of the ADC. Our members have had the opportunity to work with Dr. Hopkins and have been extremely impressed by his knowledge and helpfulness. His impressive academic achievements as well as his extensive and successful work experience assure the public that he will be an important and beneficial part of the ADC.

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 645, Kevin Hopkins  
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.

Your support and confirmation of Kevin Hopkins to the Agribusiness Development Corporation is requested.

Kevin Hopkins is an internationally known scientist who has managed aquaculture and fisheries development projects throughout the world for more than 40 years. He is the retired, Executive Director, Pacific Aquaculture & Coastal Resources Center.

Hawaii is an island-state surrounded by the Pacific Ocean. Yet, aquaculture as a diversified agricultural production has not been optimized. Since ADC's mission includes partnerships with farmers, ranchers, and aquaculture groups to acquire and manage high-value lands, water systems and infrastructure for commercial agricultural use it makes sense to have someone like Kevin Hopkins on the ADC Board of Directors. His expertise can help direct research for the development of new aquaculture products and markets at lower production costs.

Thank you for your consideration of support for Kevin Hopkins.

**GM-645**

Submitted on: 5/11/2020 11:31:35 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>
J Ashman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**GM-645**

Submitted on: 5/11/2020 11:34:33 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>
Kalani	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



**GM-645**

Submitted on: 5/11/2020 4:12:22 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:

Dr. Kevin Hopkins is ideally suited for a position on the ADC Board of Directors. He has been involved in aquaculture, agriculture, and aquaponics as a researcher and commercial grower in the public and private sectors, respectively, for his entire professional life, locally, nationally, and internationally. He is a Professor of Aquaculture at the University of Hawaii Hilo, Past President of the U.S. Aquaculture Society, and a commercial farmer on the Big Island. My wife, Estralita, and I strongly Dr. Hopkin's nomination without reservation.

**GM-645**

Submitted on: 5/11/2020 6:31:02 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:

**From:** [Ron Kauha'aha'a](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support GM645  
**Date:** Monday, May 11, 2020 2:50:08 PM

---

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the confirmation of Kevin Hopkins to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Dr. Hopkins is the ideal candidate for membership on the board of directors of the ADC. Our members have had the opportunity to work with Dr. Hopkins and have been extremely impressed by his knowledge and helpfulness. His impressive academic achievements as well as his extensive and successful work experience assure the public that he will be an important and beneficial part of the ADC.

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 GM645  
**Date:** Monday, May 11, 2020 3:00:05 PM

---

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the confirmation of Kevin Hopkins to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Dr. Hopkins is the ideal candidate for membership on the board of directors of the ADC. Our members have had the opportunity to work with Dr. Hopkins and have been extremely impressed by his knowledge and helpfulness. His impressive academic achievements as well as his extensive and successful work experience assure the public that he will be an important and beneficial part of the ADC.

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:** [Stephanie whalen](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support GM645  
**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 Kevin Hopkins to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Dr. Hopkins is the ideal candidate for membership on the board of directors of the ADC. Our members have had the opportunity to work with Dr. Hopkins and have been extremely impressed by his knowledge and helpfulness. His impressive academic achievements as well as his extensive and successful work experience assure the public that he will be an important and beneficial part of the ADC.

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:** [Randy Cabral](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support GM645  
**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 confirmation of Kevin Hopkins to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Dr. Hopkins is the ideal candidate for membership on the board of directors of the ADC. Our members have had the opportunity to work with Dr. Hopkins and have been extremely impressed by his knowledge and helpfulness. His impressive academic achievements as well as his extensive and successful work experience assure the public that he will be an important and beneficial part of the ADC.

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 GM645  
**Date:** Monday, May 11, 2020 4:10:03 PM

---

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the confirmation of Kevin Hopkins to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Dr. Hopkins is the ideal candidate for membership on the board of directors of the ADC. Our members have had the opportunity to work with Dr. Hopkins and have been extremely impressed by his knowledge and helpfulness. His impressive academic achievements as well as his extensive and successful work experience assure the public that he will be an important and beneficial part of the ADC.

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 GM645  
**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 Kevin Hopkins to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Dr. Hopkins is the ideal candidate for membership on the board of directors of the ADC. Our members have had the opportunity to work with Dr. Hopkins and have been extremely impressed by his knowledge and helpfulness. His impressive academic achievements as well as his extensive and successful work experience assure the public that he will be an important and beneficial part of the ADC.

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 GM645  
**Date:** Monday, May 11, 2020 4:50:03 PM

---

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the confirmation of Kevin Hopkins to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Dr. Hopkins is the ideal candidate for membership on the board of directors of the ADC. Our members have had the opportunity to work with Dr. Hopkins and have been extremely impressed by his knowledge and helpfulness. His impressive academic achievements as well as his extensive and successful work experience assure the public that he will be an important and beneficial part of the ADC.

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 GM645  
**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 confirmation of Kevin Hopkins to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Dr. Hopkins is the ideal candidate for membership on the board of directors of the ADC. Our members have had the opportunity to work with Dr. Hopkins and have been extremely impressed by his knowledge and helpfulness. His impressive academic achievements as well as his extensive and successful work experience assure the public that he will be an important and beneficial part of the ADC.

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](mailto:gtoyama67@gmail.com)

**From:** [Young Tarring](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support GM645  
**Date:** Monday, May 11, 2020 5:50:05 PM

---

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the confirmation of Kevin Hopkins to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Dr. Hopkins is the ideal candidate for membership on the board of directors of the ADC. Our members have had the opportunity to work with Dr. Hopkins and have been extremely impressed by his knowledge and helpfulness. His impressive academic achievements as well as his extensive and successful work experience assure the public that he will be an important and beneficial part of the ADC.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Young Tarring  
Owner  
OHANA BANANA FARM  
162 Maka Hinu St  
Hilo, HI 96720  
[young@applebananas.com](mailto:young@applebananas.com)

**From:** [John Gordines](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support GM645  
**Date:** Monday, May 11, 2020 7:00:03 PM

---

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the confirmation of Kevin Hopkins to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Dr. Hopkins is the ideal candidate for membership on the board of directors of the ADC. Our members have had the opportunity to work with Dr. Hopkins and have been extremely impressed by his knowledge and helpfulness. His impressive academic achievements as well as his extensive and successful work experience assure the public that he will be an important and beneficial part of the ADC.

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:** [LUANA BECK](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support GM645  
**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 confirmation of Kevin Hopkins to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Dr. Hopkins is the ideal candidate for membership on the board of directors of the ADC. Our members have had the opportunity to work with Dr. Hopkins and have been extremely impressed by his knowledge and helpfulness. His impressive academic achievements as well as his extensive and successful work experience assure the public that he will be an important and beneficial part of the ADC.

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 GM645  
**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 confirmation of Kevin Hopkins to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Dr. Hopkins is the ideal candidate for membership on the board of directors of the ADC. Our members have had the opportunity to work with Dr. Hopkins and have been extremely impressed by his knowledge and helpfulness. His impressive academic achievements as well as his extensive and successful work experience assure the public that he will be an important and beneficial part of the ADC.

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](mailto:orchidplantation@gmail.com)

**From:** [Frederick Mencher](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support GM645  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 2:20:06 AM

---

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the confirmation of Kevin Hopkins to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Dr. Hopkins is the ideal candidate for membership on the board of directors of the ADC. Our members have had the opportunity to work with Dr. Hopkins and have been extremely impressed by his knowledge and helpfulness. His impressive academic achievements as well as his extensive and successful work experience assure the public that he will be an important and beneficial part of the ADC.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Frederick Mencher  
2029 Nuuanu Ave Apt 1510  
Honolulu, HI 96817  
[frederickmencher@gmail.com](mailto:frederickmencher@gmail.com)

**From:** [Jason Moniz](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support GM645  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 7:00:22 AM

---

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the confirmation of Kevin Hopkins to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Dr. Hopkins is the ideal candidate for membership on the board of directors of the ADC. Our members have had the opportunity to work with Dr. Hopkins and have been extremely impressed by his knowledge and helpfulness. His impressive academic achievements as well as his extensive and successful work experience assure the public that he will be an important and beneficial part of the ADC.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Jason Moniz  
PO Box 253  
Kunia, HI 96759  
[jasonmoniz73@gmail.com](mailto:jasonmoniz73@gmail.com)



**From:** [Alvin Tsuruda](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support GM645  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 7:10:18 AM

---

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the confirmation of Kevin Hopkins to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Dr. Hopkins is the ideal candidate for membership on the board of directors of the ADC. Our members have had the opportunity to work with Dr. Hopkins and have been extremely impressed by his knowledge and helpfulness. His impressive academic achievements as well as his extensive and successful work experience assure the public that he will be an important and beneficial part of the ADC.

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 GM645  
**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 Kevin Hopkins to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Dr. Hopkins is the ideal candidate for membership on the board of directors of the ADC. Our members have had the opportunity to work with Dr. Hopkins and have been extremely impressed by his knowledge and helpfulness. His impressive academic achievements as well as his extensive and successful work experience assure the public that he will be an important and beneficial part of the ADC.

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:** [Kurt Bosshard](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support GM645  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 12:40:11 PM

---

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the confirmation of Kevin Hopkins to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Dr. Hopkins is the ideal candidate for membership on the board of directors of the ADC. Our members have had the opportunity to work with Dr. Hopkins and have been extremely impressed by his knowledge and helpfulness. His impressive academic achievements as well as his extensive and successful work experience assure the public that he will be an important and beneficial part of the ADC.

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 GM645  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 2:30:12 PM

---

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

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

I support the confirmation of Kevin Hopkins to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Dr. Hopkins is the ideal candidate for membership on the board of directors of the ADC. Our members have had the opportunity to work with Dr. Hopkins and have been extremely impressed by his knowledge and helpfulness. His impressive academic achievements as well as his extensive and successful work experience assure the public that he will be an important and beneficial part of the ADC.

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

**GM-645**

Submitted on: 5/13/2020 12:56:39 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>
HERBERT M. "TIM" RICHARDS, III	Testifying for Hawaii County Council	Support	No

Comments:

## Testimony

### Nomination of Kevin D. Hopkins Agribusiness Development Corporation Board of Directors

Hawaii State Senate  
Agriculture and Environment Committee Meeting  
May 13, 2020, 1:30 PM  
Rm 016, Hawaii State Capital  
Committee Clerk: Mr. Rock Riggs, [r.riggs@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:r.riggs@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Dear Chairman Mike Gabbard, Vice-Chairman Russel Ruderman, and Committee Members:

I am pleased and honored to have been nominated by Governor Ige to become a regular member of the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation. I was appointed as an interim member in Fall 2019. Because of the end-of-year holidays and disruptions caused by Covid-19, I have been able to attend only one meeting as a voting member so far.

My responses to Chairman Gabbard's queries follow:

(1) Why do you wish to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation? - I wish to serve on the ADC Board because I feel I can make a difference. To be blunt, agriculture, farmers and food sustainability receive considerable rhetorical support from various levels of government but gets ability to provide meaningful support is severely hampered by regulations, bureaucratic inefficiency, and lack of funding. ADC was created to provide the flexibility and efficiency needed to stimulate our agriculture industry. In my opinion, as ADC has not pushed the limits of its statutory flexibility, its impact has been limited, and thus, its support from farmers and the legislature is minimal. I hope to encourage that to change.

(2) How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation? - Board members of a corporation should provide strategic direction and oversight to that corporation. ADC's board does not operate in that manner. It spends much of its time on operational minutiae, much like the government's regulatory boards. This leaves little time for the truly significant issues.

(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? I have:

- been involved in agriculture, aquaculture & fisheries since I was a young boy. My family owned a riding stable and I spent many days feeding, cleaning stalls, cutting hay and stacking bales. I cleaned chicken coops to earn spending money (but only once or twice)!
- I worked in a fisheries laboratory while getting my undergraduate degree in zoology.
- A 3 year stint in the Peace Corps planning aquaculture and fisheries projects in Mindanao. Philippines followed.

- Earned multiple graduate degrees (M.S. and Ph.D. in fisheries and aquaculture and an MBA, emphasizing international business) at Auburn University;
- My family returned overseas with me for 6 years while I conducted research concentrating on growing tilapia and integrated livestock-fish farming systems.
- I was the Executive Director of the Consortium for International Fisheries and Aquaculture Development based at Oregon State University for almost 4 years.
- Then on to UH-Hilo in 1988. I created the undergraduate aquaculture program; have taught aquaculture classes for more than 3 decades; developed the Pacific Aquaculture and Coastal Resources Center (I was its director for 13 years); and conducted numerous research and development projects worth millions of dollars. In addition to aquaculture and fisheries, I have also taught animal science and farm management. I have had a number of private farms producing ornamental fish, sturgeon, caviar, coffee, and kava. Unfortunately, those private activities have been curtailed as Madame Pele covered over 20 acres of my farms in 2018.
- I know how private industry, academia, and the government works (or doesn't)!

(4) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service? I hope that I can encourage ADC to stimulate agriculture through-out the state

(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? A. Intellectually, there are few persons who have as wide and thorough training in most aspects of agriculture and aquaculture, ranging from genetics to production to processing and marketing. B. I am not afraid to speak truth to power. C. I am empathetic, particularly in multicultural situations. But I do let empathy lead to a "no-can" attitude. My favorite word(s) is "Why?" and least favorite "that is how we do it". I get things done.

(6) Name one previous experience that would make you stand out. How would this benefit the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation? - I developed the Pacific Aquaculture & Coastal Center using resources from the University, County, State, and Federal governments. I see what can be, not just what is.

(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 foresee any conflicts as my main farms were destroyed. That being the case, if there is even the least possibility of an appearance of conflict of interest, I would disclose it and, most probably, recuse myself.

Thank you for this opportunity to communicate with you,

Kevin Hopkins  
746 Hele Mauna St  
Hilo, HI 96720

## **Resume**

Kevin D. Hopkins  
College of Agriculture, Forestry & Natural Resources Management  
University of Hawaii at Hilo  
200 W. Kawili St, Hilo, HI 96720  
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808-937-8310

## **Education and Training**

<u>Degree</u>	<u>Major Field</u>	<u>University</u>	<u>Date</u>
Ph.D.	Fisheries & Allied Aquacultures	Auburn University	8/1979
M.B.A.	Business Administration	Auburn University	8/1979
M.S.	Fisheries & Allied Aquacultures	Auburn University	8/1977
B.S.	Zoology	University of Oklahoma	8/1972

## **Employment History**

Managing Member, Day<sup>2</sup> Resources LLC, Hilo, HI. 1998 to present. Manage a family-owned firm providing consulting services in aquaculture and agriculture; production of sturgeon, its caviar, and kava (a Pacific medicinal plant).

Professor of Aquaculture, College of Agriculture, University of Hawaii at Hilo (UHH), Hilo, Hawaii, USA. July 1997 to present. Responsible for the administration of the UHH undergraduate aquaculture program. Duties include curriculum development; teaching courses in aquaculture and fisheries; and management of multiple research projects. Previously Associate Professor - July 1991 to June 1997 and Assistant Professor - August 1988 to June 1991.

Director, Pacific Aquaculture and Coastal Resources Center, University of Hawaii at Hilo (UHH), Hilo, Hawaii, USA. September 2000 to 2013. Responsible for the development and operation of the Center. Overall manager of 2 research facilities, 50 plus projects and annual budget of approximately \$3 million.

Executive Director of the Consortium for International Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (CIFAD) based at Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon, USA. July 1986 to June 1988. Managed international fisheries projects conducted by 5 USA universities. These projects were in Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Latin America. CIFAD also offered short courses for international students in various aspects of fisheries and aquaculture.

Associate Research Scientist and Project Leader, International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management (ICLARM), MCC P.O. Box 1501, Makati, Metro Manila, Philippines. September 1981 - June 1985. Managed a tilapia mariculture project for the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research. Also provided technical assistance to sea beam and grouper projects.

Post-Doctoral Fellow, Rockefeller Foundation, New York. September 1979 - August 1981. Worked with ICLARM as project co-leader of its Integrated Animal-Fish Farming Project.



Assistant Professor in Fisheries, College of Fisheries, Central Luzon State University (CLSU), Nueva Ecija, Philippines. October 1979 - November 1981. Taught courses in fisheries and aquaculture.

US Peace Corps Volunteer, Peace Corps – Manila. August 1972 to August 1975. Assigned to the Philippines Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Region X, Cagayan de Oro City. Regional planner for all manner of fisheries and aquaculture projects in Northern Mindanao.

### **Current Research Projects**

Economic Impact of Manipulating Coffee Flowering. 2018-2021. USDA Pacific Basin Agricultural Research Center. \$103,559

Blue Fields: Open-Ocean Single Point Mooring Array for High-Yield Macroalgal Culture. 2020 – 2023. Subcontract to Kampachi Farms, funded by DOE ARPA-E. \$98,420

MarineAgronomy.org website. 5/2020 – 12/2022. World Wildlife Federation. \$30,000

Feeding Seaweed to Nenuc. 5/2020 – 8/2020. Subproject of Integrated Cropping Systems project funded by USDA Pacific Basin Agricultural Research Center. \$36,495

### **Selected Consulting & Other Short-Term Projects**

Aquaculture and fisheries curriculum development at Sylhet Agricultural University, Bangladesh, funded by USAID through Winrock International, July 2017

Review of Fisheries and Aquaculture CRSP facilities and activities in Nicaragua, May 2012, funded by USAID

Post-Tsunami Sustainable Coastal Livelihoods Program, Ranong Province, Thailand, 2005 – 2007, funded by USAID.

### **Awards and Honors**

President, United States Aquaculture Society, 2014-2015

1993 University of Hawaii at Hilo Award for Excellence in Scholarly Activities

Certified Fisheries Scientist by American Fisheries Society.

### **Publications**

Twenty six papers in peer-reviewed journals and symposia; 3 book chapters; 12 miscellaneous published articles; 2 theses and dissertations; 14 technical reports; multiple oral and poster presentations; and 4 M.S. theses supervised