

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

**MARCH 31, 2021
VIDEOCONFERENCE**

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 508

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

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Governor's Message No. 508. This measure seeks to confirm Cynthia Rezendes to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides. The Department of Agriculture strongly supports this measure.

Ms. Rezendes has served on the Committee since her appointment in 2017 and has been a valued member, always offering thoughtful insight and expertise. She was integral in decision making measures such as the amendments to the pesticide's rules and the addition of several pesticides, including chlorpyrifos, to the list of state restricted pesticides.

Ms. Rezendes has diverse experience in the community serving in multiple roles throughout the State. She has leadership experience in various community groups such as Nanakuli-Maili Neighborhood Board, Waianae Coast Neighborhood Board, Oahu Resource Conservation and Development Council, Ka Papa O Kakuhihewa Council, Oahu Land Trust, Hawaiian Islands Land Trust, Mohala I Ka Wai, and Kealahou West Oahu.

Ms. Rezendes' involvement in the local community has been a welcomed addition to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides. She has served as a good conduit on



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information sharing between the community and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture Pesticides Branch on regulatory issues.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

GM-508

Submitted on: 3/28/2021 3:13:08 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/31/2021 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support the confrimation of Cynthia Rezentes



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 31, 2021
1:00 PM Via Videoconference

GM 508

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

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

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council supports GM 508 for Cynthia Rezendes to serve on the Advisory Committee on Pesticides. We believe she will continue to be an asset to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

We ask you to support Cynthia Rezendes' nomination and we appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

Nicole Galase
Managing Director





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March 31, 2021

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON GM 508

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

Via Videoconference
1:00 PM

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

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i 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 Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports the confirmation of Cynthia Rezendes to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Ms. Rezendes has the skill, experience, and integrity to effectively represent the broad and diverse community on this Advisory Committee. She is a dedicated public servant who has demonstrated her ability to understand complicated scientific issues and engage in meaningful discussions that, during her years as a member of this Committee, have led to recommendations that are protective of human health and the environment while also being practical for Hawai'i's agricultural community.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer our strong support for Cynthia Rezendes.

GM-508

Submitted on: 3/19/2021 7:33:37 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/31/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support. As the minutes of past meetings will attest, Ms. Rezendes is a hard working, productive member of the Advisory Committee on Pesticides. Not surprising, this is true of her in any group fortunate to have her as a member. I know this first hand as a member of a committee that she chaired. Please confirm her continuing appointment as a member of the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

GM-508

Submitted on: 3/24/2021 2:32:28 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/31/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Richard Medeiros	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I fully support the nomination of Cynthia Rezentes to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides. Cynthia has proven herself to be a strong community leader and voice. She well educates herself on all issues before she addresses them and she will make an outstanding member of this committee.

Mahalo,

Richard

GM-508

Submitted on: 3/28/2021 10:48:36 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/31/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thomas T Shirai Jr	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard and Committee Members,

I am serving my fourth consecutive term on the North Shore Neighborhood Board Sub-District 1 (Mokule'ia to Ka'ena), lifetime resident of Mokule'ia and Piko Ohana of Waialua.

I'm also a member of the Mokule'ia Community Association and served with Cynthia Rezentes on DLNR's Ka'ena Point Advisory Group.

Like Cynthia we both are active in Community and Cultural Affairs of our areas for a longtime exceeding over 20 years. She brings alot this board and will be a great asset.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony Supporting GM 508 regarding Cynthia Rezentes.

Thomas T Shirai Jr

Mokule'ia, Waialua

GM-508

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 11:58:48 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/31/2021 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am in strong support of the confirmation of Cynthia Rezendes to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Thank you.

GM-508

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 8:26:07 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/31/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rayne Kauhi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Strongly Oppose

GM-508

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 8:28:57 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/31/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alex Kauhi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Opposition

GM-508

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 10:48:57 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/31/2021 1:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sharlette Poe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Sharlette Poe and I am in strong support of Ms. Cynthia Rezendes being confirmed to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides. As a Community Servant-Leader myself that serves on our Waianae Coast Neighborhood Board as its current Chair, a Partnership Specialist with the Census Bureau, and a lead planning member for a cohort of community leaders in the Waianae Moku called the Waianae Moku Navigators I have had many opportunities to watch and learn from her work that benefits us all across the State of Hawaii.

First, having not only watched, but also worked directly with her over the years on a number of environmental issues and concerns I can confidently say she has the knowledge, background, and experience necessary to be a strong contributing member of this Committee.

Second, she is well spoken and shows the depth of research she does and knowledge she holds when sharing her thoughts, ideas, and recommendations leading to well-organized discussions that lead to well-informed, well-thought out decisions and solutions.

Third, as this is her fourth time being requested to sit on the Advisory Committee on Pesticides it recognizes that other key leaders and experts also have great confidence in her ability to serve well on this Committee.

Again, I strongly support Ms. Cynthia Rezendes' confirmation to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Mahalo,

Sharlette Poe

Cynthia K.L. Rezentes

GM508

(1) Why do you wish to be a member of the Advisory Committee on Pesticides? I have been a member on the Advisory Committee on Pesticides for a total of 3 varying terms and believe that I can contribute to the history and overall direction of the Committee to continue to attempt to provide guidance in protecting our workers who deal with pesticides on a regular basis.

(2) How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Advisory Committee on Pesticides? Thus far, as a member on the Committee, I have had to contribute towards updating the Rules for Pesticide use and to make it readable to the lay-person. In addition, I believe that we have an obligation to review all newly considered pesticides to be used in the State of Hawaii so that it is safe to use for the workers and also for our overall environment such that it will not cause additional harm to our environment whether farmed or native.

(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 have followed the environmental issues related to pesticides and other substances on our natural environment by my personal attention to such matters and also working with the EPA when a member of National Environmental Justice Advisory Committee. In both those arenas, I have had the pleasure to work with various individuals in the academic, farmworker, corporation, and tribal partners to understand the larger extent of effects of various not only pesticides but chemicals being utilized in today's environment.

(4) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service? To contribute my knowledge and to continue to position myself and the State in protecting and enhancing our values in not only food production but also continuing protection of our natural 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? I am persistent when tasked with projects or needs to make decisions (I have followed the Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill situation for over 20 years). I do my homework in understanding the data that is presented and also review to understand why some may object to that data with their own views. I will be tenacious in presenting my position upon doing my due diligence to help to bring to the table all information that I investigate.

(6) Name one previous experience that would make you stand out. How would this benefit the Advisory Committee on Pesticides? My persistence in following through with a commitment...e.g. Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill being followed for over 20 years.

(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? I don't see any possible conflicts of interests at this time but would try to understand why there might be a conflict of interest if challenged. I am not indebted to either industrial farming or environmental organizations that would present a conflict and should not during the time I am appointed.

