

**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**  
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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. 509**

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides, Gubernatorial Nominee, **MATT LYUM**, for a term to expire 06-30-2021.

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Governor's Message No. 509, relating to Pesticides. This measure seeks to confirm Matt Lyum to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides to sit on the seat for the landscaping representative. The Department of Agriculture supports this measure.

Mr. Lyum has experience in the landscaping sector of Hawaii serving in multiple roles throughout the State, including founding his own business Performance Landscape in 2002. He has been a certified applicator for the company in both turf and ornamental and right-of way categories since 2017. Performance Landscape has received such accommodations as Pacific Business News - 24th Fastest Growing Business in 2007, American Red Cross Lifesaver Award - Benny Abridado 2008, Scenic Hawaii - Betty Crocker Landscape Professional Gardens Award of Honor 2009, Hawaii Loa Ridge Model Home of Distinction and impeccable Presentation 2009, and Outdoor Circle Spring Beautification Award - CP Bank Kaneohe Branch 2010, and is affiliated with the Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii, Building Owner and Managers Association, Hawaii State Farm Bureau, and Aloha Arborists Association.



Mr. Lyum's involvement in the local landscaping sector would be a welcomed addition to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides. He would serve as a good conduit on information sharing between the landscaping sector and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture Pesticides Branch on regulatory issues.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**LARRY JEFTS FARMS, LLC**  
**PO BOX 27**  
**KUNIA, HAWAII 96759**  
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GM509, GM510, Matt Lyum, Gubernatorial Nominee for the  
Advisory Committee on Pesticides  
Senate AEN Hearing  
Wednesday, March 31, 2021 1:00 pm

Testimony By: Larry Jeffs  
Position: Support

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

I am Larry Jeffs, owner and operator of Larry Jeffs Farms, LLC. We have more than 42 years of Hawaii farm experience on Molokai and Oahu. I am a volunteer director, serving as Chair of the West Oahu Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). I have been an officer of the Hawaii Farm Bureau for many years.

I've known Matt Lyum through our membership of the South County Hawaii Farm Bureau. As the owner-operator of Performance Landscapes, he is a certified landscape professional and maintains a RUP license. Mr. Lyum's other professional experiences in aquaculture, organic waste management and recycling, and erosion control provide a unique background for discussing and considering Hawaii's pesticide recommendations.

Your support of Matt Lyum's nomination is appreciated.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**GM-509**

Submitted on: 3/28/2021 3:14:49 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/31/2021 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:

Please support the confirmation of Matt Lyum



**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 509**

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides, Gubernatorial Nominee, MATT LYUM, for a term to expire 06-30-2021..

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

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council supports GM 509 for Matt Lyum to serve on the Advisory Committee on Pesticides. As a landscaper, Matt has the background needed to understand the needs and challenges of pesticide use.

We urge you to support Matt Lyum's 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 509**

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides, Gubernatorial Nominee, MATT LYUM, for a term to expire 06-30-2021

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 Matt Lyum to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.**

HFB believes that Mr. Lyum's extensive and diverse background will provide him with the experience and skill to effectively represent the landscape industry on this Advisory Committee. In addition, Mr. Lyum's knowledge about pesticide regulations, use, and safety will be a valuable asset to the Committee in its deliberations to assist the Department of Agriculture in developing or revising laws and rules to carry out and effectuate the purposes of the Hawai'i Pesticide Law.

Thank you for the opportunity to support the confirmation of Matt Lyum to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

**GM-509**

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 11:58:01 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/31/2021 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:

I am in strong support of the confirmation of Matt Lyum to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Thank you.

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

As an active member of the Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii and owner of a landscaping firm with over 100 employees, I am well aware of the plethora of pesticides being applied into our environment on a daily basis. Hawaii is the ONLY state without a requirement for all commercial pesticide applicators to have required training. Our workforce must be trained and guided to protect the environment, the worker, and the general public.

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

To make responsible decisions on pesticide use that are in the best interest of the environment, the worker, and the general public.

**(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 a Bachelor's of Science in Fisheries Biology from the University of Washington, so I understand the impact of chemicals and run-off can have on the environment. I have the Hawaii license to manufacture Filtrexx siltsoxx so contractors can prevent sediment, oil, and other pollutants from going into our receiving waters. I hold a Restricted Use Pesticide License which trains me on proper use, handling, storage, and effect of pesticides. I passed the National Association of Landscape Contractors "Certified Landscape Professional" Exam. I am former President of the Waikalua Loko Fishpond Preservation Society which is dedicated to protecting Native Hawaiian Fishponds. I am former Board Member of the Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii. I founded Performance Landscapes in 2002 and grew it into an organization of over 100 employees, all of whom are trained in EPA Pesticide Handler/Worker protocol. I managed a composting/renewable energy company for 10 years so understand environmental responsibility.

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

To make sound decisions on the rules and policies of pesticide use for Hawaii.



**(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?**

Ethical – I am not swayed by special interest groups, money, or politics.

Environmental – I want to protect our environment for generations to come.

Pragmatic – As a successful business owner, I make practical decisions that can be carried out. As Thomas Edison stated, “Vision without execution is a hallucination.”

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

I was the Chair of The Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii’s Pesticide Certification Committee.

**(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 meet with chemical distributors often due to my business. That could be perceived as a conflict. Safety, environmental concern, economics and practicality, are all factors in deciding what I purchase from these vendors. I will advise on policy decisions the same way.