

**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, March 31, 2021  
1:00 PM

GM 512 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, GLENN HONG, for a term to expire 6-30-2022.

Aloha Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee,

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

Mr. Hong has served as the President of Young Brothers from 1992 to 2018. He has extensive experience in finance and government affairs and is a respected member of the Hawaii business community. Under Mr. Hong's leadership, Young Brothers has undergone fleet modernization initiative to meet statewide cargo needs into the next generation.

Mr. Hong's appointment will expand the depth and broad representation of ADC's Board and we are confident that he will continue his decades-long commitment to serving the people of Hawaii. For these reasons, we respectfully ask for your support of Mr. Hong's appointment to serve as a member of the ADC Board of Directors.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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**  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

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

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT**

**MARCH 31, 2021  
1:00 P.M.  
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 512  
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS OF THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION,  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, GLENN HONG, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2022**

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Governor's Message 512 that submits for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, Glenn Hong, for a term to expire on June 30, 2022. The Department strongly supports the confirmation of Glenn Hong.

Mr. Hong formerly served on the Board of Agriculture where he provided a unique voice to the Board as an experienced and successful professional in fiscal administration and the transportation industry. Mr. Hong served as the President of Young Brothers from 1992 – 2018, where he found ways to provide incentives for Hawaii's local farmers and ranchers with discounted agricultural rates and implement responsible management practices to prevent the interisland movement of invasive species.

Mr. Hong's experience and commitment to Hawaii's agricultural industry will enrich Board discussions and he will make a valuable addition to the Agribusiness Development Corporation's Board of Directors.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this nomination.



Testimony of Ku'uhaku Park  
On Behalf of Matson  
Support GM512  
Before the Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
March 31, 2020

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

Matson supports GM512, which nominates Glenn Hong to serve on the Agribusiness Development Corporation. Mr. Hong is an outstanding accountant with an accounting degree from one of the most prestigious universities in the country and extensive experience in audit, taxation, and management consulting. His decades of experience in the maritime and transportation industry give him unique insight into agricultural issues. We have worked with Mr. Hong on maritime issues and have always found him to be open, fair, and transparent. We believe he will execute his duties with fairness and competence.

Thank you for considering our testimony in support.

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

GM512, Glenn Hong, Governatorial Nominee for the Board of Directors  
Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC)  
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.

We support Mr. Hong's gubernatorial nomination to the ADC. His former tenure on the Hawaii Board of Agriculture (2012-2020) gives him an understanding of the HDOA and ADC's roles in promoting commercial agriculture growth.

His extensive internal audit functions in organizations such as Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co, Hawaiian Telephone Company, and its GTE-Telephone Operations in Stamford, Connecticut, will help with ADC's realignment of operational policies and procedures.

Please support Mr. Hong's nomination to the ADC Board of Directors.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**GM-512**

Submitted on: 3/28/2021 3:17:36 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 Glenn Hong



**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 512**

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, GLENN HONG, for a term to expire 06-30-2022.

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

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council supports the appointment of Glenn Hong to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation. Mr. Hong's background serving on the Board of Agriculture, along with his career experience in finance will give the Agribusiness Development Corporation the guidance it needs to provide farmers and ranchers with the opportunities needed.

I respectfully request your support of Mr. Hong's appointment to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Nicole Galase  
Managing Director





P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759  
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March 31, 2021

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

**TESTIMONY ON GM 512**

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, GLENN HONG, for a term to expire 06-30-2022

Videoconference  
1:00 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, 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.

**HFB strongly supports** the confirmation of Mr. Glenn Hong to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Many speak to the importance of agriculture but few are willing to make the commitment needed to implement actions that enhance the industry's ability to support the viability of farmers and ranchers. Mr. Hong, in his previous position at Young Brothers, has demonstrated a commitment to the industry, willing to listen and seek solutions when challenges are encountered. He understands that plans deliver ideas but it is action that results in true support to the farmer and rancher.

Mr. Hong's pragmatism is critical to ADC during this trying time. His common-sense approach, separating wishful thinking from practical implementation is an important character needed to guide the Board on priorities needed for the industry.

HFB respectfully requests your strong support of Mr. Hong to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our support for Mr. Glenn Hong.



March 24, 2021

**COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

Sen. Mike Gabbard, Chair; Sen. Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair; and Committee Members  
Public Hearing, March 31, 2021 , 1:00 p.m. Via Videoconference - State Capitol

**TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM F. ANONSEN**  
**MANAGING PARTNER/PRINCIPAL OF THE MARITIME GROUP**  
**IN SUPPORT OF GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 512**  
**( GLENN HONG – BOARD OF AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT CORP )**

My name is William F. Anonsen, the Managing Partner/Principal of The Maritime Group. I respectfully would like to express my personal support for the confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee, Mr. Glenn Hong to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Through my professional and personal association with Mr. Hong for many years, I have found him to be a dedicated individual who consistently performs his professional and civic responsibilities with a sense of commitment, pride and duty. He has the professional credentials, years of experience and personal attributes necessary that make him an outstanding nominee which he has consistently demonstrated by his years of dedicated service to Hawaii's transportation industry and our island communities.

Mr. Hong is a leader in our community and a team player who works well with all people and is an excellent facilitator. He has demonstrated on several occasions, his strong analytical skills, and his ability to remain committed to his principals, always with the highest degree of ethics and diplomacy in times of heated conflicting opposition. I have always found him to carefully consider difficult issues, and through a structured investigative process and mindset, he develops calculated decisions that address and work to resolve an issue. Most important, Glenn stands by his beliefs and principals, strongly defending them skillfully and with respectful tact.

Mr. Hong is well versed in a myriad of transportation issues and is an individual of unquestionable integrity and fairness and has my personal vote of confidence on the Board. The success of the mandated mission of the Department of Agriculture is too important to our remote island state and deserves strong leadership and commitment to purpose.

***Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this distinguished business and community leader***

Sincerely,

*William F. Anonsen*

William F. Anonsen  
Managing Partner/Principal



**GM-512**

Submitted on: 3/26/2021 11:01:08 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>
John Leong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard and AEN Committee Members,

I wanted to write in STRONG support of Glenn Hong. Glenn is a talented, high level, and treasured business leader in our community. In addition to understanding how to successfully lead a large organization (Young Brothers) he also understands agriculture and Hawaii. These are very important factors in determining the success of ADC. Having a board member like Glenn is a true opportunity for ADC and the state. He masterfully managed complex situations during his term as President of Young Brothers and brought people together while seeing results. He understands the various needs of our many islands and those who produce food locally. That sort of wealth of knowledge is not easily found in leaders. He also is a leader that was well respected by his people and the community. He is a leader who leads with values and is also effective. He also served on the State Agriculture Board and has extensive experience and knowledge about agriculture in Hawaii. I believe that his wisdom, leadership experience, and leadership style will provide strategic guidance, accountability, and multiple returns for ADC.

I frankly feel that not selecting Glenn would be a huge loss for the state and ADC. I hope you strongly consider him for this role. He is the type of leader that will add to the effectiveness and positive impact that the state desires through ADC. He will elevate ADC and most importantly help to create a better future for our state.

Aloha,

John Leong

**GM-512**

Submitted on: 3/27/2021 6:07:26 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William Tam	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

THE SENATE

THE THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING

Wednesday, March 31, 2021

1:00 p.m (by video conference)

GM 512 **Mr. Glenn Hong** to the Board of Directors of the Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC).

I **strongly support** and **highly recommend** for your consideration, approval, and confirmation the nomination of **Mr. Glenn Hong** to the Board of the Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC).

For more than 45 years Glenn Hong has worked in Hawaii businesses (large and small). His financial background, his quick insights, and his understanding of local agriculture from field to market make his judgment deeply grounded in experience and wise.

Glenn served two terms on the Board of Agriculture where he saw first hand the struggles of local farmers. As CEO of Young Brothers for more than two decades, Glenn worked with shippers to deliver goods to market and understands the struggles on the neighbor islands to make market deliveries. As an auditor with nearly 20 years in private practice, at Hawaiian Tel, GTE nationally, and later Hawaiian Electric, he

analyzed finance and why businesses both succeed and fail. Glenn's ability to focus quickly and go to the core questions distinguishes him from others.

His experience with small business, marketing, and management will contribute significantly to the ADC's board's efficiency and ability to concentrate on critical issues (clearly an important need given ADC's recent history). Glenn grew up in his family restaurant business so he knows first hand the food preparation and delivery challenges at the retail level as well.

Glenn gets along with everyone, but never hesitates to take the initiative and responsibility when the situation requires it. His leadership, community service, and family values are exemplary and well recognized.

**I strongly recommend with the highest regard and without reservation Mr. Glenn Hong** for your approval and confirmation to serve on the Board of the Hawaii Agricultural Development Corporation.

Thank you.

William Tam

# SCOTT E. ENRIGHT COMPANY LLC

March 31, 2021

Videoconference, 1:00pm

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

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

I stand in **strong support for GM 512**, the nomination of Glenn Hong to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

When Glenn served as a member of the Board of Agriculture, when I was Chairperson for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture, he was a very active member of the board. His contributions to the board were invaluable with his strong business and transportation background.

The Agribusiness Development Corporation is now in a period of transition and needs strong board members to move their programs forward. Glenn is the right person to take on this role for the board at this time.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott E. Enright". The signature is stylized and written in cursive.

Scott E. Enright  
President

To the State of Hawai`i Boards and Commissions  
RE: Agribusiness Development Corporation Board Vacancy  
September 24, 2020

Ladies and Gentlemen:

My name is Glenn Hong, and have recently completed two terms as a member of the State of Hawai`i Board of Agriculture where I served with three Department Directors (Kokubun, Enright, Shimabukuro-Geiser). Director Shimabukuro-Geiser recommended that I consider applying to the subject vacancy.

My interest in the agricultural industry stems from the economic, societal and environmental impacts that a sustainable agricultural industry will have on Hawaii's future. The Hawaiian Islands have a great challenge in its isolation, yet this also presents its own opportunities. Island communities are unique and Hawaii is especially so. Prior to western contact, Hawaii had a food-sufficient native society, supporting a significant population base. Today, the vast majority of our food and energy is imported into our state. I believe that the citizens of Hawaii support rational initiatives that move us toward greater self sufficiency in these areas.

I also believe that a robust agricultural industry, based on product diversity and entrepreneurship, supports employment growth, agricultural land preservation, watershed protection, and broad-based community development. I would like to see our agriculture policies support such a sustainable vision. A clear vision and establishment of underlying objectives are necessary to ensure that our agricultural policies are furthered through our statutes and administrative implementation. Policies such as stopping harmful invasive species from entering the state require the technology and resources to achieve that goal. If our community goal is to keep green spaces open and provide access to fresh, locally-sourced affordable food; if our desire is to develop greater indigenous energy resources; then we need to pay attention to how we develop our infrastructures, how we allocate, yet protect our water resources, how we educate our next generation, and how we define our land use and land tax policies. I believe I can contribute positively to the mission of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

I am the retired (December 2017) President of Young Brothers, Limited, an inter-island cargo common carrier. My educational background is in finance and accounting and this has extended into my work experience. Further, I have extensive operational experience in transportation logistics and policies, strategic planning, resource allocation, regulation, and employment initiatives, among others. These experiences have broadened my ability to ask pertinent questions, identify potential options, and guide organizations toward desired outcomes. I have participated on a number of boards and task forces in leadership and

committee member roles. I have worked directly with farm bureaus and associations on issues of transportation and food security. These efforts have all been collaborative in nature.

While I do not anticipate any conflicts of interest, should any arise, I would necessarily take any appropriate action, including recusal in that matter.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss my background with you. Please contact me should you have any questions.

Very Truly Yours,

Glenn Hong