

**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 728 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, Randolph Cabral, for a term to expire 6-30-2025.

Aloha Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee,

The Agribusiness Development Corporation (“ADC”) supports Mr. Randolph  
“Randy” Cabral’s appointment to the Board of Agriculture.

Mr. Cabral has served as the President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau since he was  
elected in 2015. He has a broad perspective of agriculture and the environment and is a  
respected member of the Hawaii farming community. Mr. Cabral has also brought  
outstanding leadership and much needed stability to the organization which represents  
over 1,800 farms statewide.

Mr. Cabral’s appointment will expand the depth and broad representation of the  
Board of Agriculture and we are confident that he will continue his unwavering  
commitment to serving Hawaii’s agriculture community. For these reasons, we  
respectfully ask for your support of Mr. Cabral’s ’s appointment to serve on the Board of  
Agriculture.

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 728  
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF  
AGRICULTURE, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, RANDOLPH CABRAL, FOR A TERM  
TO EXPIRE 6-30-2025**

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Governor's Message 728 that submits for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, Randolph Cabral, for a term to expire on June 30, 2025. The Department strongly supports the confirmation of Randolph Cabral.

In addition to his experience serving as a member of the Board of Agriculture since 2017, Mr. Cabral has ample experiences as an agriculturist serving in local agricultural industries such as sugar and macadamia nut. He has many ties to the agricultural community in the State through participation in the Cattleman's Association, Moaula Water Cooperative, Hawaii Macadamia Nut Association, Hawaii Agricultural Leadership Foundation, Soil and Water Conservations Districts, and as the current president of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation.

Mr. Cabral brings great knowledge of and experience with agriculture that enriches Board discussions. We look forward to his continued participation on the Board of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this nomination.



**GM-728**

Submitted on: 3/19/2021 5:32:52 PM

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 Randy Cabral for the Hawaii Board of Agriculture.

**GM-728**

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 11:27:08 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>
Ronald Weidenbach	Testifying for Hawaii Aquaculture & Aquaponics Association	Support	No

Comments:

The Hawaii Aquaculture and Aquaponics Association (HAAA) strongly supports the nomination of Randolph Cabral to the Board of Agriculture for another term to expire 06-30-2025. Randy has demonstrated during his current term on the BOA and as President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau his knowledge of and commitment to the growth of all forms of diversified agriculture in Hawaii, including aquaculture and aquaponics. The HAAA therefore respectfully urges his confirmation to another term on the BOA. Thank you for the opportunity to convey our strong support for this important nomination.

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

GM728, Randy Cabral, Gubernatorial Nominee for Board of Agriculture  
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 have had the pleasure of serving with Randy Cabral on the HFB Board of Directors. He is currently the State HFB President and has served as its Vice President before that. His steady leadership has guided the organization during challenging times.

Mr. Cabral is a proven leader in Hawaii's agricultural community on many fronts and is an engaged member of organizations such as the Puna and Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts, a founding member of Kinooles Farmers' Market, Cattlemen's Association, and the Moaula Water Cooperative.

His direct farm experience includes operating his family farm business of vegetable truck crops (1977-1989) and cattle ranching since 2000. He retired from Royal Hawaiian Orchards after more than 30 years of service, providing operational oversight of 6,000 acres of macadamia orchards and 200 employees.

Mr. Cabral's diverse agricultural background will contribute to discussions and decisions of the Board of Agriculture. Please support his continued tenure for the Board of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**GM-728**

Submitted on: 3/25/2021 4:40:07 PM

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>
Arumugam Katir	Testifying for Saiva Siddhanta Church	Support	No

Comments:

Our church is a member of the Farm Bureau and utilizes 306 acres of ag land licenses from ADC. We highly recommend Randy Cabral to continue on the Board of Agriculture as he brings first hand expertise and familiarity with Hawaii's farming community to their deliberations.

**GM-728**

Submitted on: 3/28/2021 6:16:05 PM

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>
Susan Shaheen Mulkern	Testifying for Mulkern Landscaping & Nursery	Support	No

Comments:

Please support Mr. Cabral. He is a fine leader for our industry.

Thank you for your consideration.

Susan Mulkern



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759  
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921  
e-mail [info@hfbf.org](mailto:info@hfbf.org); [www.hfbf.org](http://www.hfbf.org)

March 31, 2021

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

**TESTIMONY ON GM 728**

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, RANDOLPH CABRAL, for a term to expire 06-30-2025.

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 nomination and reappointment of Mr. Randy Cabral to the Board of Agriculture.

As the current President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau, Mr. Cabral works on a wide variety of policy issues concerning the needs, challenges, and opportunities faced by farmers across the State. Mr. Cabral, who is currently serving his first term on the Board of Agriculture, has an extensive background and understanding of Hawaii's diverse agricultural industries and will be a continued asset to the Board of Agriculture, Hawaii's agriculture sector, and the people of Hawaii.

Mr. Cabral's diverse professional background in agriculture includes experience in orchard crops, vegetable crops, sugar, and livestock production. Mr. Cabral has been involved in agriculture for over 45 years, recently retiring from a long career in the macadamia farming business. He also spent more than a decade in Hawaii's sugar industry and many years farming root crops such as ginger and Kalo. He currently operates a small ranching operation on the Big Island.

HFB respectfully requests your strong support of Mr. Randy Cabral's reappointment to the Board of Agriculture.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our unconditional support for Mr. Cabral.





**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 728**

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, RANDOLPH CABRAL, for a term to expire at noon on 06-30-2025.

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

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council strongly supports the nomination and reappointment of Mr. Randolph "Randy" Cabral to the Board of Agriculture.

Mr. Cabral has proven to be an effective advocate for ranchers and farmers. As the current President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau, Mr. Cabral is versed in the challenges and opportunities ranchers and farmers face. Mr. Cabral, who is now serving his first term on the Board of Agriculture, has an extensive background and understanding of Hawaii's diverse agricultural industries and will be a continued asset to the Board of Agriculture and Hawaii's agriculture sector, and the people of Hawaii.

We respectfully request your strong support of Mr. Cabral's reappointment to the Board of Agriculture.

Nicole Galase  
Managing Director



**GM-728**

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 1:29:08 PM

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>
Keith Unger	Testifying for McCandless Ranch	Support	No

Comments:

As Immediate Past President of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, I have seen Mr. Cabral's dedication and passion for Hawaii's agricultural industry. I strongly support his nomination to the Board of Agriculture.

**GM-728**

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 1:37:06 PM

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>
Karol M Haraguchi	Testifying for W.T. Haraguchi Farm, Inc.	Support	No

Comments:

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

**Rodney and I strongly support** the nomination and reappointment of Mr. Randolph "Randy" Cabral to the Board of Agriculture.

As the current President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau, Mr. Cabral works on a wide variety of policy issues concerning the needs, challenges, and opportunities faced by farmers across the State. Mr. Cabral, who is now serving his first term on the Board of Agriculture, has an extensive background and understanding of Hawaii's diverse agricultural industries and will be a continued asset to the Board of Agriculture and Hawaii's agriculture sector, and the people of Hawaii.

Mr. Cabral's background in farming and ranching is extremely broad. He has worked in Hawaii agriculture for over 45 years. He has farmed kalo and ginger, orchard and vegetable crops, sugar, and raises livestock. He recently retired from a long career in the macadamia farming industry. He continues to work his small ranch on the Big Island.

I respectfully request your strong support of Mr. Cabral's reappointment to the Board of Agriculture.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide my support for Mr. Cabral.

**GM-728**

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 3:11:26 PM

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>
Denise Kawano	Testifying for Hikiola Cooperative	Support	No

Comments:

**I strongly support** the nomination and reappointment of Mr. Randolph "Randy" Cabral to the Board of Agriculture.

**GM-728**

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 3:21:26 PM

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>
Nathaniel Oswald	Testifying for Molokai Farm Bureau	Support	No

Comments:

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

**I strongly support** the nomination and reappointment of Mr. Randolph "Randy" Cabral to the Board of Agriculture.

As the current President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau, Mr. Cabral works on a wide variety of policy issues concerning the needs, challenges, and opportunities faced by farmers across the State. Mr. Cabral, who is now serving his first term on the Board of Agriculture, has an extensive background and understanding of Hawaii's diverse agricultural industries and will be a continued asset to the Board of Agriculture and Hawaii's agriculture sector, and the people of Hawaii.

Mr. Cabral's background in farming and ranching is extremely broad. He has worked in Hawaii agriculture for over 45 years. He has farmed kalo and ginger, orchard and vegetable crops, sugar, and raises livestock. He recently retired from a long career in the macadamia farming industry. He continues to work his small ranch on the Big Island.

I respectfully request your strong support of Mr. Cabral's reappointment to the Board of Agriculture.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide my support for Mr. Cabral.



Email: [communications@ulupono.com](mailto:communications@ulupono.com)

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT  
Wednesday, March 31, 2021 — 1:00 p.m.

**Ulupono Initiative supports GM 728, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, RANDOLPH CABRAL, for a term to expire 06-30-2025.**

Dear Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food; renewable energy and clean transportation; and better management of freshwater and waste.

**Ulupono supports GM 728.** Randy Cabral has been serving on the Board of Agriculture as a member-at-large for the last few years, providing a much-needed producer perspective for Board decisions. He brings an extensive background as a producer in Hawai'i and his many leadership roles, including serving as the President of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau. This experience helps tremendously to inform decision-making regarding the State's agricultural future. If re-appointed, he will assuredly continue his critical role on the Board as a reliable voice for local farmers and ranchers.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata  
Director of Government Affairs

*Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i*

**GM-728**

Submitted on: 3/25/2021 6:26:44 PM

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>
Jimmy Gomes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support Randy Cabral for BOA, he has been a true asset for all stakeholders in our agriculture industry. He very knowledgeable and handles issues fairly and professionally . Please reappoint Randy GM 728

**GM-728**

Submitted on: 3/25/2021 6:30:56 PM

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>
Joni Kamiya	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Randal Cabral has been an instrumental leader for agriculture in Hawaii and will serve our state well on the Board of Agriculture.



**GM-728**

Submitted on: 3/25/2021 7:53:48 PM

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>
Gordon Inouye	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senator Gabbard,

I have had the opportunity to work with Mr. Randy Cabral over the past few years dealing with the challenges that Big Island farmers and Ranchers have faced following the 2018 Kilauea Eruption. I found Randy to be committed and in attendance at virtually every critical meeting of stakeholders and officials and added insight and leadership to the process. He is a tremendous advocate for the farmers and ranchers of Hawaii and is one of the most valuable members of the board. I truly hope that the Senate will confirm his reappointment to the Board of Agriculture.

Aloha, Gordon Inouye.

President, Puna Flower Power, Board member, Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association, Board member, Synergistic Hawaii Agricultural Council.

**GM-728**

Submitted on: 3/25/2021 9:35:22 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Frederick M. Mencher	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

**I strongly support** the nomination and reappointment of Mr. Randolph "Randy" Cabral to the Board of Agriculture.

As the current President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau, Mr. Cabral works on a wide variety of policy issues concerning the needs, challenges, and opportunities faced by farmers across the State. Mr. Cabral, who is now serving his first term on the Board of Agriculture, has an extensive background and understanding of Hawaii's diverse agricultural industries and will be a continued asset to the Board of Agriculture and Hawaii's agriculture sector, and the people of Hawaii.

Mr. Cabral's background in farming and ranching is extremely broad. He has worked in Hawaii agriculture for over 45 years. He has farmed kalo and ginger, orchard and vegetable crops, sugar, and raises livestock. He recently retired from a long career in the macadamia farming industry. He continues to work his small ranch on the Big Island.

I respectfully request your strong support of Mr. Cabral's reappointment to the Board of Agriculture.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide my support for Mr. Cabral.

Sincerely,

Frederick M. Mencher

**GM-728**

Submitted on: 3/26/2021 4:42:05 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>
Taylor Kellerman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Randy has done a great job thus far and his knowledge of agriculture and ranching coupled with a professional demeanor makes him a very suitable candidate.

Mahalo

Taylor Kellerman

Director of Diversified Agriculture and Land Stewardship

Kualoa Ranch Hawaii

**GM-728**

Submitted on: 3/26/2021 2:47:00 PM

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>
Mark Phillipson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

**I strongly support** the nomination and reappointment of Mr. Randolph "Randy" Cabral to the Board of Agriculture.

As the current President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau, Mr. Cabral works on a wide variety of policy issues concerning the needs, challenges, and opportunities faced by farmers across the State. Mr. Cabral, who is now serving his first term on the Board of Agriculture, has an extensive background and understanding of Hawaii's diverse agricultural industries and will be a continued asset to the Board of Agriculture and Hawaii's agriculture sector, and the people of Hawaii.

Mr. Cabral's background in farming and ranching is extremely broad. He has worked in Hawaii agriculture for over 45 years. He has farmed kalo and ginger, orchard and vegetable crops, sugar, and raises livestock. He recently retired from a long career in the macadamia farming industry. He continues to work his small ranch on the Big Island.

I respectfully request your strong support of Mr. Cabral's reappointment to the Board of Agriculture.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide my support for Mr. Cabral.

Kind regards,

Mark Phillipson

**GM-728**

Submitted on: 3/27/2021 8:16:49 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>
Alex Franco	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support Randy Cabral for the Board of Agriculture

**GM-728**

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 11:17:47 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>
Kaelin Sylva	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

**I strongly support** the nomination and reappointment of Mr. Randolph "Randy" Cabral to the Board of Agriculture.

As the current President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau, Mr. Cabral works on a wide variety of policy issues concerning the needs, challenges, and opportunities faced by farmers across the State. Mr. Cabral, who is now serving his first term on the Board of Agriculture, has an extensive background and understanding of Hawaii's diverse agricultural industries and will be a continued asset to the Board of Agriculture and Hawaii's agriculture sector, and the people of Hawaii.

Mr. Cabral's background in farming and ranching is extremely broad. He has worked in Hawaii agriculture for over 45 years. He has farmed kalo and ginger, orchard and vegetable crops, sugar, and raises livestock. He recently retired from a long career in the macadamia farming industry. He continues to work his small ranch on the Big Island.

I respectfully request your strong support of Mr. Cabral's reappointment to the Board of Agriculture.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide my support for Mr. Cabral.

**GM-728**

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 11:33:20 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>
Dana Sato	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

**I strongly support** the nomination and reappointment of Mr. Randolph "Randy" Cabral to the Board of Agriculture.

As the current President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau, Mr. Cabral works on a wide variety of policy issues concerning the needs, challenges, and opportunities faced by farmers across the State. Mr. Cabral, who is now serving his first term on the Board of Agriculture, has an extensive background and understanding of Hawaii's diverse agricultural industries and will be a continued asset to the Board of Agriculture and Hawaii's agriculture sector, and the people of Hawaii.

Mr. Cabral's background in farming and ranching is extremely broad. He has worked in Hawaii agriculture for over 45 years. He has farmed kalo and ginger, orchard and vegetable crops, sugar, and raises livestock. He recently retired from a long career in the macadamia farming industry. He continues to work his small ranch on the Big Island.

I respectfully request your strong support of Mr. Cabral's reappointment to the Board of Agriculture.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide my support for Mr. Cabral.

**GM-728**

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 11:37:25 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 Takemoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Gabbard and committee members,

I am writing in strong support of GM 728 appointing Mr. Randy Cabral to the Board of Agriculture.

Mr. Cabral provides a valuable asset to the State with his extensive knowledge and experience in Hawaii's agriculture. His dedication to the social and economic well being of all farmers and ranchers both large and small is greatly needed as we navigate Hawaii's economic sustainability. Mr. Cabral's volunteerism and selfless actions is well recongized and appreciated.

I respectfully urge the committee to approve GM 728 appointing Mr. Randy Cabral to the Board of Agriculture.

Mahalo,

Alan Takemoto



**GM-728**

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 1:34:22 PM

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>
Maggie Kramp	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**I strongly support** the nomination and reappointment of Mr. Randolph "Randy" Cabral to the Board of Agriculture.

**GM-728**

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 1:51:49 PM

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>
Matt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

I support the nomination and reappointment of Randy Cabral to the Board of Agriculture.

**GM-728**

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 1:59:54 PM

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>
Mae Nakahata	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Respectfully request the confirmation of Randolph Cabral to the Board of Agriculture. His extensive experience in the industry both as an employee of a large agribusiness as well as personal experience on his ranch gives him the ability to look at the big picture of what is needed for agriculture in Hawaii. As President of Hawaii Farm Bureau, his task involves looking at the broad picture, advocating for what is best for Hawaii, fairly and pragmatically. We need people with experience on the ground and not just behind the desk.

Please support the confirmation of Mr. Cabral to the Hawaii Board of Agriculture.

**GM-728**

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 2:06:55 PM

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>
Warren Watanabe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

I strongly support the nomination and reappointment of Randolph Cabral to the Board of Agriculture. Mr. Cabral is currently the President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau and has actively participated in leading the HFB in federal, state, and county issues affecting our farmers and ranchers. His many years of working in the industry and in his personal operation provides the background and knowledge necessary to finding solutions to difficult problems that are fair and balanced. Mr. Cabral's reappointment to the Board of Agriculture will be invaluable in moving Hawaii agriculture forward. Thank you.

Warren K. Watanabe

**GM-728**

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 2:57:40 PM

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>
Dawn Bicoy	Individual	Support	No

**Comments:**

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

**I strongly support** the nomination and reappointment of Mr. Randolph "Randy" Cabral to the Board of Agriculture.

As the current President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau, Mr. Cabral works on a wide variety of policy issues concerning the needs, challenges, and opportunities faced by farmers across the State. Mr. Cabral, who is now serving his first term on the Board of Agriculture, has an extensive background and understanding of Hawaii's diverse agricultural industries and will be a continued asset to the Board of Agriculture and Hawaii's agriculture sector, and the people of Hawaii.

Mr. Cabral's background in farming and ranching is extremely broad. He has worked in Hawaii agriculture for over 45 years. He has farmed kalo and ginger, orchard and vegetable crops, sugar, and raises livestock. He recently retired from a long career in the macadamia farming industry. He continues to work his small ranch on the Big Island.

I respectfully request your strong support of Mr. Cabral's reappointment to the Board of Agriculture.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide my support for Mr. Cabral.



Dr. Cindy Goldstein, PhD  
Ag Matters, LLC  
98-814 C Kaonohi Street  
Aiea, HI 96701

[agmatters@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:agmatters@hawaii.rr.com)

<https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/memberpage.aspx?member=mckelvey>

Board of Agriculture Confirmation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Randy Cabral  
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
Wednesday, March 31, 2021, at 1:00 pm

### **Supporting Confirmation**

Chair Senator Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and members of the Committee,

I strongly support the appointment of Mr. Randy Cabral to the Hawaii Board of Agriculture. He has served the agriculture community well for many years. Mr Cabral's nomination and reappointment will contribute to sound decision making as part of the Board of Agriculture.

Mr. Randy Cabral has dedicated his career to Hawaii's agriculture, gaining a vast range of experience working with many aspects of farming and agriculture. His hands on knowledge and expertise as a rancher helps ensure the ranching part of agriculture is well represented on the Board of Agriculture. Mr. Cabral understands farming carried out by small farmers as well as larger agricultural operations. His experience working with a wide range of crops provides the understanding and hands on knowledge that leads to informed decision making.

Mr. Cabral is to be commended for his volunteer work supporting farmers during times of disruption and crisis. Randy Cabral has volunteered a great deal of his personal time to support Hawaii farms and farmers giving him the type of broad perspective and preparation to be reappointed to sit on the Board of Agriculture. He helped ranchers and farmers during the 2018 Kilauea eruptions and more recently had a significant positive impact supporting farmers as they in turn provided food for local communities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This nominee has a great depth of understanding of agriculture policy that will serve the Board of Agriculture well as they consider the impacts of policy on farmers, ranchers, and small-scale home producers statewide.

Thank you to the Senate Agriculture and Environment Committee for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Mr. Cabral for reappointment to the Board of Agriculture.

**GM-728**

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 5:38:40 PM

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>
Alvin K Pelayo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

**I strongly support** the nomination and reappointment of Mr. Randolph "Randy" Cabral to the Board of Agriculture.

As the current President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau, Mr. Cabral works on a wide variety of policy issues concerning the needs, challenges, and opportunities faced by farmers across the State. Mr. Cabral, who is now serving his first term on the Board of Agriculture, has an extensive background and understanding of Hawaii's diverse agricultural industries and will be a continued asset to the Board of Agriculture and Hawaii's agriculture sector, and the people of Hawaii.

I have had the opportunity to work with him over the last 5 years and truly appreciate his broad range of knowledge and skills that he brings to the table.

He will be a positive contributor.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my support for Mr. Cabral.

Malama pono,

Kai Pelayo

**GM-728**

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 9:56:31 PM

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>
Edward Kawamura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I, Edward Kawamura support GM728.



**GM-728**

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 4:42:44 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>
Kaohi Mokuhalii	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

**I strongly support** the nomination and reappointment of Mr. Randolph "Randy" Cabral to the Board of Agriculture.

As the current President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau, Mr. Cabral works on a wide variety of policy issues concerning the needs, challenges, and opportunities faced by farmers across the State. Mr. Cabral, who is now serving his first term on the Board of Agriculture, has an extensive background and understanding of Hawaii's diverse agricultural industries and will be a continued asset to the Board of Agriculture and Hawaii's agriculture sector, and the people of Hawaii.

Mr. Cabral's background in farming and ranching is extremely broad. He has worked in Hawaii agriculture for over 45 years. He has farmed kalo and ginger, orchard and vegetable crops, sugar, and raises livestock. He recently retired from a long career in the macadamia farming industry. He continues to work his small ranch on the Big Island.

I respectfully request your strong support of Mr. Cabral's reappointment to the Board of Agriculture.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide my support for Mr. Cabral

Respectfully,

*Kaohi Mokuhalii*

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

I strongly support the nomination and reappointment of Mr. Randolph “Randy” Cabral to the Board of Agriculture.

As the current President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau, Mr. Cabral works on a wide variety of policy issues concerning the needs, challenges, and opportunities faced by farmers across the State. Mr. Cabral, who is now serving his first term on the Board of Agriculture, has an extensive background and understanding of Hawaii’s diverse agricultural industries and will be a continued asset to the Board of Agriculture and Hawaii’s agriculture sector, and the people of Hawaii.

Mr. Cabral’s background in farming and ranching is extremely broad. He has worked in Hawaii agriculture for over 45 years. He has farmed kalo and ginger, orchard and vegetable crops, sugar, and raises livestock. He recently retired from a long career in the macadamia farming industry. He continues to work his small ranch on the Big Island.

I respectfully request your strong support of Mr. Cabral’s reappointment to the Board of Agriculture.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide my support for Mr. Cabral.

Joan F. Lasua  
Treasurer  
Molokai Farm Bureau

**GM-728**

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 12:56:48 PM

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 strongly support the confirmation of Randy Cabral to his second term on the Board of Agriculture. Mr. Cabral's local farming and ranching experience, as well as his leadership in the industry, is unparalleled. He humbly shares this knowledge and expertise to better the Board's discussion and decision-making.

Thank you for the opportunity to support Randy Cabral for confirmation to the Board of Agriculture.

## **Randy Cabral responses to questions for the Senate confirmation hearing on March 31, 2021**

- (1) Why do you wish to be a member of the Board of Agriculture?
- (2) How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Board of Agriculture?
- (3) Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the Board of Agriculture, 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 Agriculture.
- (4) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?
- (5) Name three qualities that best describe you and that would make you stand out. How would these qualities benefit the Board of Agriculture?
- (6) Name one previous experience that would make you stand out. How would this benefit the Board of Agriculture?
- (7) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your service on the Board of Agriculture? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?

1. I would like to continue as a member of the Board of Agriculture to do all I can to support farming and ranching in Hawai'i to benefit our communities in this time of great need. The ongoing pandemic has caused many of our local residents to lose their jobs and be forced to rely on food donations, many farmers who supplied the visitor industry lost their entire market, and shortages in island grocery stores have affected each of us. This has brought increased awareness to the importance of agriculture in Hawai'i.

The policies and decisions made by HDOA impact the viability of our farmers and ranchers and determine the future of agriculture in our state. It's important that experienced and dedicated farmers are part of the decision-making process and I am committed to devoting my time and energy to this endeavor.

2. It is an honor to serve on the Board of Agriculture that is charged with establishing the broad operating policies for the Department. The mandate of the agency -- the preservation and productive use of agricultural resources to assure a healthy and adequate food supply, while preserving the aesthetic quality of the islands and employment, and achieving a favorable balance of trade -- is aligned with my lifelong career and community service goals. As a continuing Board member, I would take these responsibilities very seriously and work diligently and cooperatively with the Chair and other members to create a positive path forward and find practical and beneficial solutions to complex ag-related problems. I am familiar with the various duties and responsibilities of the many divisions within the Department and I am eager to continue to participate in the important work of the Board.

3. I have been involved in research and production agriculture in Hawai'i for over 40 years. This has provided me a breadth of knowledge and experience that I can draw upon as a member of the Board of Agriculture. In addition to being an independent small farmer and rancher, I spent my career working in both large and small scale agriculture in management positions for sugar cane and macadamia production. I have also served on the boards for the Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the Hawai'i Macadamia Nut Association, the Hawai'i Farm Bureau, the Ag Leadership Foundation of Hawai'i, and the Moa'ula Water Co-op. In addition, I have served on non-agriculture-related boards including Crime Stoppers, Hawai'i Island United Way, and the University of Hawai'i-Hilo Ag Advisory Board. Because I have both farming and ranching experience and have worked with all types of farmers and ranchers;

large and small, conventional, organic, and those using emerging technologies, I am able to understand the needs of each and ensure that all are appropriately considered.

4. I hope to help develop sound policies, programs and infrastructure that would ensure the viability of agriculture, increase local food production, and address the need to help the general public be more aware of food production and farming practices in Hawai'i.

5. I believe my integrity, impartiality, and ability to see the bigger picture and plan accordingly are three qualities that could be used to describe me. These characteristics help me assess policies and issues to ensure that outcomes are fair and in the best interest of Hawai'i's agriculture and the public. My broad farming experience allows me to understand and envision the long-term impacts of today's decisions and will help me plan and propose options for discussion.

6. My involvement with the Hawai'i Farm Bureau over the past 14 years has provided me with a good understanding of issues affecting production agriculture in Hawai'i, from the smallest of farms to the largest. This experience enables me to be part of the Board team to help with decision-making and guide HDOA in developing goals and policies to support our farmers and ranchers. During this past year of heart-breaking loss due to the pandemic, one of my experiences stands out and gives me great satisfaction. I helped coordinate a complicated food purchasing and distribution program on Hawai'i Island (the BRIDGES program) that fed tens of thousands of needy local families while paying local food producers for their fresh products (which may otherwise have been wasted due to loss of markets). The program was funded through a series of federal grants and augmented by generous private donations to support both the farmers and ranchers, and the nearly 40% of the population of Hawai'i Island who had become unemployed.

7. I have devoted my career to farming and ranching in Hawai'i and helping to ensure that others are successful in agriculture. I have a strong sense of fairness and of what is right and wrong. I pride myself on being impartial in my decisions. Although I do not see any conflicts of interest at this time, should a conflict or a perceived conflict arise, I would make sure that it is brought to the attention of the Chair and the Board and would recuse myself from any actions taken by the Board.