

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

APRIL 8, 2022

1:00 P.M.

CONFERENCE ROOM 224 & VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 549
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF
AGRICULTURE, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, JAMES GOMES, FOR A TERM TO
EXPIRE 6-30-2026**

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Governor's Message 549 that submits for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, James Gomes, for a term to expire on June 30, 2026. The Department strongly supports the confirmation of James Gomes.

Mr. Gomes has extensive experience with the Hawai'i cattle industry and as the Operations Manager for the Ulupalakua Ranch on Maui, a post he held since 2003. He serves as the President of the Hawaii Cattleman's Council. Mr. Gomes has extensive experience in government, serving on the Board of Land and Natural Resources for 8 years, and as the Maui Liquor Board Commissioner for 10 years.

His extensive experience in ranching and production agriculture coupled with his understanding of governmental operations and board procedures will make him an invaluable addition to the Board of Agriculture. The Department strongly supports the confirmation of James Gomes to the Board of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this nomination.





Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT
Friday, April 8, 2022 — 1:00 p.m.

Ulupono Initiative strongly supports GM 549, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, James Gomes, for a term to expire 06-30-2026.

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 the quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food, renewable energy, clean transportation, and better management of freshwater and waste.

Ulupono strongly supports GM 549. James Gomes is a local rancher with several years of experience directly supporting Hawai'i's agricultural sector. He has served in many important roles, such as the President of the Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council and a Board member on the Board of Land and Natural Resources, providing an instrumental viewpoint of what it takes to be a producer here in Hawai'i. As the State looks to meet its local food and sustainability goals, producer voices with active participation in the industry will be vital to our agricultural future. Mr. Gomes represents that voice, and we look forward to his service on the Board of Agriculture.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



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

April 8, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON GM 549

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, JAMES GOMES, for a term to expire 06-30-2026.

Conference Room 224 & 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 Hawai'i'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 strongly supports GM 549, seeking the confirmation of Mr. James Gomes to the Board of Agriculture.

Mr. Gomes is known for his love of ranching and the 'āina. He not only speaks of stewardship but embraces it as part of his life. He has served as a volunteer on numerous boards and commissions demonstrating his aloha and willingness to give back to the community. Mr. Gomes is currently the President of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council and has also been active in the Maui Cattlemen's Association, Hawaii Cattle Producers Cooperative, and other community boards, most notably the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Mr. Gomes' current position as Operations Manager for Ulupalakua Ranch puts him in a position to implement his beliefs in his day-to-day management of the Ranch. They work towards preserving natural wildlife and flora while operating a working ranch. He demonstrates how conservation can be balanced with the agricultural use of the land. His 8-year dedication to the Board of Land and Natural Resources will be an asset to the Board of Agriculture, as it creates a conducive opportunity for the collaboration between State departments that is necessary for progress.

We respectfully request your strong support towards the confirmation of Mr. James Gomes to the Board of Agriculture.



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

GM549
Board of Agriculture, JAMES GOMES

Friday, April 8, 2022, 1:00 PM
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the four county level Cattlemen's Associations. Our member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of over 750 thousand acres of land in Hawai'i, or 20% of the State's total land mass. We represent the interests of Hawai'i's cattle producers.

The Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council **supports GM549** to confirm Gubernatorial Nominee, James Gomes, to the Board of Agriculture of a term to expire 06-30-2026. Mr. Gomes is currently the President of the Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council and has also been active in the Maui Cattlemen's Association, Hawai'i Cattle Producers Cooperative, and other community boards, most notably the Board of Land and Natural Resources. Mr. Gomes has proven that he is willing to put in the work to represent the community, and ensure that agriculture has a voice in the arenas where decisions are made. His 8-year dedication to the Board of Land and Natural Resources will be an asset to the Board of Agriculture, as it creates a conducive opportunity for the collaboration between State departments that is necessary for progress.

In addition, James Gomes was inducted into the Paniolo Hall of Fame in 2019, which recognizes those who keep Hawai'i's paniolo heritage alive. It is a well-deserved honor, as Mr. Gomes has lived and worked the paniolo way of life, and took it a step further to advocate for Hawai'i's cattle industry and agriculture as a whole in the roles he takes on to serve the community.

As one of the state's top agricultural commodities, it is important that the cattle industry is represented on the Board of Agriculture, and we believe that James Gomes has the agriculture experience, positive community engagement, and capability to be a strong board member if confirmed.

Thank you for your consideration. I am available if you have any questions.



Nicole Galase
Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director

GM-549

Submitted on: 4/5/2022 4:40:19 AM

Testimony for AEN on 4/8/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taylor Kellerman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

James "Jimmy" Gomes would be an excellent addition to the BOA. He has proven leadership and possess a vast expanse of related knowledge.

Mahalo

Taylor Kellerman

Director of Diversified Agriculture and Land Stewardship

Kualoa Ranch Hawaii

GM-549

Submitted on: 4/5/2022 5:39:09 AM

Testimony for AEN on 4/8/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Woody Child	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support Mr. James Gomes as Gubernatorial Nominee for the Board of Agriculture.

GM-549

Submitted on: 4/5/2022 7:36:17 AM

Testimony for AEN on 4/8/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keith	Testifying for McCandless Ranch	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have had the pleasure of knowing and working with Jimmy Gomes for many years. Jimmy has proven to be a strong advocate of agriculture and will be an asset on the BOA.

Keith Unger

McCandless Ranch

GM-549

Submitted on: 4/5/2022 10:01:33 AM

Testimony for AEN on 4/8/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Randy Cabral	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly support

GM-549

Submitted on: 4/5/2022 6:55:29 PM

Testimony for AEN on 4/8/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Theresa M Thompson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I **support GM549** to confirm Gubernatorial Nominee, James Gomes, to the Board of Agriculture of a term to expire 06-20-2026. Mr. Gomes has proven that he is willing to put in the work to represent the community, and ensure that agriculture has a voice in the arenas where decisions are made. It is important that the cattle industry is represented on the Board of Agriculture.

Thank you for your consideration.

Theresa Thompson

Thompson Ranch
Kula, Maui

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair

DATE: April 8, 2022
TIME: 1 pm
PLACE: Conference Room 224

GM 549 Confirmation of James Gomes to the Board of Agriculture

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, JAMES GOMES, for a term to expire 06-30-2026.

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

My name is Alan Gottlieb. I have been involved in Hawaii agriculture for over 40 years.

I strongly support GM 549 nominating **Jimmy Gomes** to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

I have personally known Jimmy for over 20 years. During that time, I have always felt that Jimmy was intelligent, well spoken, and very knowledgeable of the issues which affect the agricultural industry, and of the highest integrity. His management of Ulupalakua Ranch demonstrates his dedication to conservation and to the land itself. Not only is Jimmy a good businessman and land steward, he is a nice guy.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of Jimmy Gomes for the Hawaii Board of Agriculture

Alan Gottlieb
P O Box 700489
Kapolei HI 96707

Ted Yamamura
2073 Wells Street Suite 100
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii 96793
Tel: (808) 270-0604
Email: ted@acmmaui.com

April 6, 2022

Honorable Senator Mike Gabbard
Chair, Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 201
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Letter of Support – Mr. James Gomes, GM 549
Board of Agriculture

Dear Senator Gabbard and Committee Members:

I write in full support of Mr. James “Jimmy” Gomes and his nomination to the Board of Agriculture. Jimmy Gomes and I have been friends for over 50 years and I have always found him to be a humble gentleman as a result of his Upcountry-Maui farm and cattle upbringing, straightforward in his fairness and honesty, a persevering hard worker, and a man with quick humor.

His business and ranching background have provided Jimmy Gomes with vast practical knowledge of land, land uses, water, plants and animal husbandry, which makes Jimmy Gomes a natural fit with the State board charged to support and promote Hawaii’s agriculture and aquaculture industries, and to maintain the agricultural sector of Hawaii’s economy.

I urge your favorable consideration of Jimmy Gomes.

Sincerely yours,



Ted Yamamura



April 8, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON GM 549

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee,
JAMES GOMES, for a term to expire 06-30-2026

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

1:00 PM

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

I strongly support GM 549, seeking the confirmation of Mr. James Gomes to the Board of Agriculture.

Mr. Gomes is known for his love of ranching and the 'āina. He not only speaks of stewardship but embraces it as part of his life. He has served as a volunteer on numerous boards and commissions demonstrating his aloha and willingness to give back to the community. Mr. Gomes is currently the President of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council and has also been active in the Maui Cattlemen's Association, Hawaii Cattle Producers Cooperative, and other community boards, most notably the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Mr. Gomes' current position as Operations Manager for Ulupalakua Ranch puts him in a position to implement his beliefs in his day-to-day management of the Ranch. They work towards preserving natural wildlife and flora while operating a working ranch. He demonstrates how conservation can be balanced with the agricultural use of the land. His 8-year dedication to the Board of Land and Natural Resources will be an asset to the Board of Agriculture, as it creates a conducive opportunity for the collaboration between State departments that is necessary for progress.

I respectfully request strong support toward the confirmation of Mr. James Gomes to the Board of Agriculture.

Brian Watanabe
President
Island Grown Foods, Inc.
Dbā: Hawaii Food Products

GM-549

Submitted on: 4/6/2022 4:53:34 PM

Testimony for AEN on 4/8/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bud & Katy Gibson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We strongly support the nomination of James Gomes for the Board of Agriculture. His years of experience, knowledge and understanding of the agriculture industry will be a benefit as he serves on the Board. He will be an tremendous asset to those of us who are food producers in the State of Hawaii.

GM-549

Submitted on: 4/7/2022 6:54:55 AM

Testimony for AEN on 4/8/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lani Petrie	Testifying for Kapapala Ranch	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We strongly support James Gomes to serve on the Board of Agriculture. The State's goal of increasing food production can only be accomplished with advocates such as Jimmy. He tirelessly gives of himself to better our agricultural communities. Please confirm James Gomes to the Board of Agriculture for a brighter future for Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Lani and Bill Petrie

GM-549

Submitted on: 4/7/2022 8:31:05 AM

Testimony for AEN on 4/8/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Riley Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is Riley Smith. I have known Jimmy Gomes for over 20 years. I have found him to be a thoughtful, clear and honest individual. He has run Ulupalakua Ranch, for as long as I've known him. He understands the balance between running a business and stewarding our natural resources. He has successfully been able to perpetuate an agricultural business, while managing higher labor costs and increased governmental regulation. He has been an asset to the DLNR Land Board for hte past eight years and can similarly be an asset to the DOA Agricultural Board and it's many challenges. For these reasons, I wholeheartedly support Jimmy Gomes for this position.

Riley Smith

GM-549

Submitted on: 4/7/2022 8:50:56 AM

Testimony for AEN on 4/8/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Kimo Falconer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support Jimmy Gomes as a member of the State Board of Ag.
mahalo.



MAUI COUNTY FARM BUREAU

PO Box 148, Kula, HI 96790
mauicountyfarmbureau.org

April 8, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON GM 549

Submitting for consideration to the Board of Agriculture, Gubernatorial
Nominee, JAMES GOMES, for a term to expire 06-30-2026

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
1:00 PM

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

I am Warren Watanabe, Executive Director of the Maui County Farm Bureau. The Maui County Farm Bureau supports GM 549, seeking the confirmation of Mr. James Gomes to the Board of Agriculture. Mr. Gomes is currently the President of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, and is active with the Maui Cattlemen's Association and other organizations. He has demonstrated his interest and support of all sectors in agriculture which is critical to serving on the Board of Agriculture. In his recent tenure on the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Mr. Gomes had shown that reaching balance and collaboration is critical in decision-making.

We respectfully request your strong support of Mr. James Gomes to the Board of Agriculture.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



TESTIMONY OF JACOB D. TAVARES, LIVESTOCK OPERATIONS BUSINESS MANAGER,
PARKER RANCH, INC.
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
April 8, 2022, 1:00 pm
CONFERENCE ROOM 224 & VIDEOCONFERENCE

MEASURE: GM 549

TITLE: BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, JAMES GOMES

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

Parker Ranch, Inc. supports GM549 to confirm Gubernatorial Nominee, James Gomes, to the Board of Agriculture for a term which would expire on June 30th, 2026. In his many years serving on various boards and committees, including most notably on the Board of Land and Natural Resources for the past eight (8) years, and as the current President of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Mr. Gomes has been a tireless advocate for Hawaii food producers and land stewards. These Hawaii based leadership experiences, will undoubtedly prove to be beneficial to the Board of Agriculture.

In addition to his leadership in the community, Mr. Gomes is well regarded for his decades of experience managing a commercial agricultural operation in upcountry Maui. His role allowed him to interact with a variety of farmers, ranchers, and conservationists in one of Hawaii's most agriculturally viable districts. Beyond that, Mr. Gomes was instrumental in guiding Maui Cattle Company through its formation and many transitions, as it has become one of the well-recognized local beef brands in the state. These, along with and his many other accomplishments, show Mr. Gomes' commitment to our state's agricultural industry, and will provide the Board with a valuable perspective regarding the challenges and opportunities the state is faced with, as it works to achieve land management and food security goals.

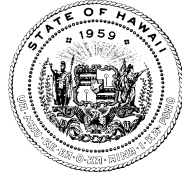
It is important that the Board of Agriculture has a representative from the cattle industry, which still stands as one of Hawaii's top agricultural commodities. Mr. Gomes would be a great representative for not only our industry, but all other sectors of the agricultural community.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Jacob D. Tavares
Parker Ranch, Inc.
Manager, Livestock Business Operations

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII

JOSH GREEN
LT. GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII



WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

TYLER I. GOMES
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**

P. O. BOX 1879
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM J. AILA, JR, CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
HEARING ON APRIL 8, 2022 AT 1:00 PM VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

IN SUPPORT OF

GM549

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the
Board of Agriculture
Gubernatorial Nominee, **JAMES GOMES**,
for a term to expire 06-30-2026

April 8, 2022

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

We provide this testimony in support of Governor Ige's nomination of James Gomes to the Board of Agriculture.

Mr. Gomes would like to join the Board of Agriculture to support the Department with its vital function of maintaining agriculture in the economy of Hawaii. He brings years of experience including his prior service as the Maui Member of the Board of Land and Natural Resources and his personal commitment to be a "Steward of the Aina."

We respectfully ask your committee to advise and consent to this nomination, and thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

GM-549

Submitted on: 4/7/2022 11:35:21 AM

Testimony for AEN on 4/8/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alex Franco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Alex Franco, and I support the confirmation of James Gomes to the Hawaii Board of Agriculture. I have worked with Jimmy Gomes in Hawaii's Cattle Industry for more than 20 years and have found him to take the needed time to study and educate himself on various industry issues. He is not one to be pressured in taking sides on an issue but will always vote on what he feels is the correct direction based on his research and taking the time to visit with people involved on both sides of the issue.

If Jimmy is confirmed he will be a great asset to the Board and our Agricultural Industry.

Thank You for allowing me to testify.

GM-549

Submitted on: 4/7/2022 12:01:55 PM

Testimony for AEN on 4/8/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
J Ashman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the confirmation of Jimmy Gomes to the Board of Agriculture. He has broad agricultural experience and knowledge and is able to understand and articulate the needs of farmers and ranchers. His recent terms on the Board of Land and Natural Resources have also given him a useful comprehension of natural resource laws and regulations that will benefit the Board of Agriculture in its mission.

GM-549

Submitted on: 4/7/2022 12:11:36 PM

Testimony for AEN on 4/8/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melelani Oshiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the nomination of James Gomes to the Board of Agriculture.

GM-549

Submitted on: 4/7/2022 12:14:19 PM

Testimony for AEN on 4/8/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jenee S Odani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Jenee Odani and I am a veterinarian working on Oahu, but am originally from the Island of Maui. I have had the pleasure of working with Mr. Jimmy Gomes for the last few years on issues relating to livestock management and health. He is extremely knowledgeable about many issues relating to agriculture and livestock management. He takes care to listen to the opinions of others and critically analyzes facts before drawing conclusions. I think he would serve Hawaii well as a member of the Board of Agriculture.

Thank you!

GM-549

Submitted on: 4/8/2022 6:44:40 AM

Testimony for AEN on 4/8/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kyle Cairns	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I strongly support GM 549, seeking the confirmation of Mr. James Gomes to the Board of Agriculture.

Mr. Gomes is known for his love of ranching and the ‘āina, and he has giving freely of his time to give back to the ranching industry and community at large through leadership positions (currently President of the Hawaii Cattlemen’s Council) and involvement on boards and commissions such as the Board of Land and Natural Resources. Mr. Gomes has a keen sense of how to integrate best management practices along with agricultural use and conservation activity of lands, helping to build and protect soil health; taken together his diverse experiences will be an asset to the Board of Agriculture for years to come.

I respectfully request your strong support towards the confirmation of Mr. James Gomes to the Board of Agriculture.