

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 550
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF
DIRECTORS OF THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, LYLE TABATA, 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 550 that submits for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC), Gubernatorial Nominee, Lyle Tabata, for a term to expire on June 30, 2025. The Department strongly supports the confirmation of Lyle Tabata.

Mr. Tabata has extensive experience in both the public and private sector and will contribute invaluable engineering experience to the ADC Board of Directors. He has served as the Director of Public Works for Kauai County, and has overseen numerous projects in a private capacity, including the Lihue Plantation Mill upgrade, Poipu Waste Reclamation Facility, Grove Farm Surface Water Treatment Facility, and Kapahi Bridge replacement.

Mr. Tabata's professional experience of agriculture on the islands of Kaua'i and Oahu will add depth and expertise to ADC, and he will be a valuable member to the ADC's Board of Directors.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on the nomination of Mr. Lyle Tabata.



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

Friday, April 8, 2022
1:00 PM

GM 550 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, LYLE TABATA, for a term to expire 6-30-2026.

Aloha Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee,

The Agribusiness Development Corporation (“ADC”) supports Mr. Lyle Tabata’s appointment to the Board of Directors of the ADC.

Mr. Tabata has 43 years of experience working in the public and private sectors. He has extensive experience in management and field engineering and is an active member of several associations and Boards in the Kauai community. As a seasoned manager, Mr. Tabata has overseen numerous projects, which includes the Lihue Plantation Mill upgrade, Poipu Waste Reclamation Facility, Grove Farm Surface Water Treatment Facility, and Kapahi Bridge replacement.

Mr. Tabata’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. Tabata’s appointment to serve as a member of the ADC Board of Directors.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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 550

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, LYLE TABATA, for a term to expire 06-30-2025.

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 550, seeking the confirmation of Mr. Lyle Tabata to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Mr. Tabata's diverse background and experience in agriculture, engineering, and water would be invaluable to ADC as they continue to partner with farmers, ranchers, and aquaculture groups to optimize the use of selected high-value lands, water systems, and infrastructure for commercial agricultural use for the economic, environmental, and social benefit of the people of Hawaii.

Mr. Tabata's experience will undoubtedly provide positive leadership for the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

HFB respectfully requests your strong support of Mr. Tabata's confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Lyle Tabata
4007 Mapu Place
Lihue, Hawaii 96766
Email: lyletabata@yahoo.com

Aloha Senators:

I am seeking the permanent appointment to the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) Board of Directors as the County of Kauai Member. My resume is already placed for viewing, I believe that my record of experience provides me a strong foundation to support the Mission of the agency, to acquire and manage, in partnership with farmers, ranchers and aquaculture groups, selected high-value lands, water systems and infrastructure for commercial agricultural use and to direct research into areas that will lead to the development of new crops, markets and lower production costs.

Experiences gained from working in the Hawaiian Sugar Industry on Kauai where I oversaw both as Amfac Sugar Kauai (Lihue Plantation and Kekaha Sugar) provides me with a wealth of information of all the ADC lands on Kauai under my stewardship.

My current and recent background as an engineer and general contractor provides me the ability to support the infrastructure needs of the locations from the origination of the water systems infrastructure which supply water to the farmers, toward the maintenance required for the vast road systems to farm and bring the agricultural product to market. In addition, any acquisition or construction of new or added infrastructure is on the horizon be able to objectively evaluate the needs of any opportunity. Having farmed these lands know which lands are best suited for viable agriculture. I know the lands which are prone to erosion and can identify the needs for soil conservation.

As a business manager, I support the efforts for creative business opportunities, partnering in the community the farmers to bring their product to market. The system does not work in a vacuum, partnering with in the local, state, national and international communities is important to bring our special agriculture to the various markets, in short public and private partnerships.

Lastly having worked in County government I understand the regulatory requirements that would need to be met without missing any step of compliance. I have coordinated with other government agencies, educational institutions and private organizations that will support the advancement of agriculture in Hawaii.

I am available to answer any questions anytime.

GM-550

Submitted on: 4/4/2022 4:54:48 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sandi Kato-Klutke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support Lyle Tabata to serve on the ADC board representing Kauai



Kalepa Koalition

6277 Puuopai Place
Kapaa, Hawaii 96746
Phone/Fax: 808-639-0152
email: diamondahorses@hotmail.com

TO: Senator Mike Gabbard, Chairperson,
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair
Committee on Agriculture and Environment

April 5, 2022

RE: **Hearing, Friday, April 8, 2022, Conference Room 224**
Agenda Item GM550, Confirmation of Lyle Tabata to ADC Board

Aloha, Senator Gabbard:

Kalepa Koalition is an agricultural cooperative formed in 2011. Its 14 members are all parcel holders of the 6,500 acres of ADC administered lands along the north and south forks of the Wailua River and behind Kalepa ridge between Lihue and Kapaa. Most are under 35-year licenses, a few are under revocable permits. It is responsible for the care and maintenance of the six miles of common element road serving the parcels.

The Koalition strongly endorses the appointment of Lyle Tabata to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

As the former Kauai county engineer, Mr. Tabata brings vast expertise and experience to the ADC board. He has attended several of our Kalepa Koalition board meetings to acquaint himself with the Kalepa Lands and has been helpful in sorting out issues, especially with regard to the pending repairs to the Wailua River South Fork Christian Crossing, now scheduled for later this year. We look forward to working in harmony with him insuring the Kalepa lands are productive for ranchers, farmers and biomass alternate energy demands.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leslie P. Milnes".

Leslie P. Milnes, President



Kalepa Koalition

6277 Puuopal Place
Kapaa, Hawaii 96746
Phone/Fax: 808-822-3392

TO: Ron Agor
BLNR
Fax: 246-1091

May 14, 2008

RE: Summary of Conditions for Transference of Portions of Kalepa Lands to Green Energy Team LLC (Green Energy), Mutually Agreed to between Green Energy and Kalepa Koalition, May 5, 2008

Aloha,

Kalepa Koalition members voluntarily identified approximately 1050 acres for transfer to Green Energy, as noted on the attached spreadsheet and map of February 8, 2008 (as since amended by Ron Agor in interaction with the unit holders) subject to the following conditions:

1. The transfer of all 6,700 to ADC from DLNR to be completed and long-term licenses be issued to existing parcel holders who desire to continue with their parcels under ADC's terms and rent.
2. There are no additional plantings of Albizia. Albizia may be harvested for a period of up to ten years on areas retained by the parcel holders, at the discretion of the parcel holder, and as worked out between the parcel holder and GE. GE's parcels to be managed using reasonable care to avoid infestation with Albizia in areas that are presently clear.
3. Biomass species to be planted by GE to be approved by DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW).
4. Should GE's business fail, first right of refusal to reoccupy forfeited areas offered to original parcel holder.
5. A general maintenance agreement shall be established through ADC and all parcel holders to address roads, bridges and all common element areas including security gates.
6. GE to become a member of the Koalition and share 25% of the common maintenance expenses.
7. GE will pay existing RP holders for fencing, security and irrigation improvement as

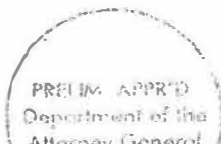


EXHIBIT "B"

outlined in the buy-back clause specified in the existing RPs for the areas which GE takes over. These payments to current RP holders will be paid by GE upon the earlier event of the physical removal of the fence by GE or upon the current tenant vacating the respective parcels, in all cases no earlier than 90 days after the Land Board Decision. This is presently estimated at about \$97,000, final figure has to be based on actual measurement subject to field survey by GE.

8. GE is responsible to install new boundary fencing where required to separate grazing areas from their plantings. This is estimated at about 5,000 feet of fence.

9. GE to pay to the Kalepa Koalition bank account \$1,725 30 days after invoice received, which is 25% of the cost of the security gate system - which has been established and maintained by the Kalepa Koalition. GE to follow Koalition practices with regard to keeping gates locked. GE may acquire non-duplicable keys to the gate system at a cost of \$20 each from the Koalition key master, which is Saiva Siddhanta Church.

10. Disagreements to be settled by binding arbitration conducted by the landlord.

These conditions are mutually agreed to by both Green Energy Team LLC and the Kalepa Koalition represented by the Kalepa interim chair who provided all members with a copy of this document on May 10. Koalition members were asked to contact Ron Agor directly should they have any objections.

Respectfully submitted,

Kalepa Koalition



Leslie P. Milnes, Interim Chair

May 15, 2008

Date:

Green Energy Team LLC



Eric Knutzen

5/15/2008

Date:

PRELIM. APPROV'D
Department of the
Attorney General



April 6, 2022

GM 550 Lyle Tabata

To Whom it May Concern:

Kekaha Agriculture Association strongly SUPPORTS GM 550.

Lyle Tabata will be an excellent Director of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Lyle's work in both the public and private sectors brings deep experience and understanding of the workings and roles each play in Hawaii. As the former manager of Amfac's Kekaha and Lihue Plantations, he is intimately knowledgeable of ADC's Kauai properties, their infrastructure and capabilities. As Kauai's Acting County Engineer, Lyle had the challenging role of interfacing with the County Council and Administration while performing the management of the largest department in the County.

Kekaha Agriculture has experienced Lyle's fair, thoughtful and honest deliberations in negotiating an important agreement between the County and ADC.

Lyle is well known in the Kauai community. He has dedicated years to youth athletics and the Boy Scouts.

I have known Lyle for more than 40 years. He is smart and deliberate in his decision making. He is a man of principal, discipline, and integrity.

It is a privilege to highly recommend Lyle Tabata as a Director of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Thankyou,

Michael A Faye, Manager
Kekaha Agriculture Association
mike@kekahaagriculture.org
direct (808) 639-3900

Mail
P.O. Box 940
Waimea, HI 96796

(808) 337-9262

Office
8297 Kekaha Road
Kekaha, HI 96752

GM-550

Submitted on: 4/6/2022 11:21:53 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
stephanie iona	Testifying for kekaha agriculture assn	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have had the opportunity to work with Lyle Tabata in his previous positions on Kauai, and can attest to the fact that he is a committed and knowledgeable leader concerning Agriculture issues. He will be a valuable voice on this board.

GM-550

Submitted on: 4/6/2022 11:49:24 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Grant Kunishima	Testifying for Sunrise Capital Inc.	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As the General Manager of Kauai Shrimp, I support wholeheartedly the appointment of Lyle Tabata to the Agriculture Development Board. With his extensive background in Agriculture, added to his credentials in business and development, I believe Lyle will provide positive ideas and direction as a member of the Board.

Best regards,

Grant Kunishima

GM-550

Submitted on: 4/6/2022 1:49:05 PM

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



April 8, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON GM 550

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, LYLE TABATA, 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 550, seeking the confirmation of Mr. Lyle Tabata to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Mr. Tabata's diverse background and experience in agriculture, engineering, and water would be invaluable to ADC as they continue to partner with farmers, ranchers, and aquaculture groups to optimize the use of selected high-value lands, water systems, and infrastructure for commercial agricultural use for the economic, environmental, and social benefit of the people of Hawaii.

Mr. Tabata's experience will undoubtedly provide positive leadership for the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

I respectfully request your strong support of Mr. Tabata's confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

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



Hartung Brothers, Inc.
P.O. Box 823
Kekaha, HI. 96752
Tel. 808-337-1408
Fax. 808-337-1560

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

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

Re: GM 550 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, LYLE TABATA, for a term to expire 06-30-2025.

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of the gubernatorial nomination of Lyle Tabata to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Mr. Tabata has extensive experience in agriculture and infrastructure operations, including multiple perspectives of the management and operation of the ADC property in West Kaua'i, that uniquely qualifies him to serve as the Kaua'i representative on the ADC board.

Mr. Tabata's professional background and knowledge would be a tremendous and highly relevant asset to the ADC Board as the board provides guidance for catalyzing sustainable economic development on the ADC properties across the state, and I am pleased to be able to support his confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this nominee.

Sincerely,

Joshua Uyehara
Vice President – General Manager, Hawaii Operations
Hartung Brothers, Inc.

GM-550

Submitted on: 4/7/2022 8:46:20 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 Lyle Tabata as a member of the ADC.

mahalo

GM-550

Submitted on: 4/7/2022 8:57:38 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Randall John Francisco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in full support of Mr. Lyle Tabata who will bring his business, community and public service acumen to this state agency. Mr. Tabata's diverse skills which include technical, soft, financial, managerial, non-profit and other highly proven leadership skills will greatly contribute to the other members' foresight of this agency especially during a time of significant change.



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 550

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, LYLE TABATA, for a term to expire 06-30-2025

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 550, seeking the confirmation of Mr. Lyle Tabata to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation. Mr. Tabata's background and experience in relation to agriculture is invaluable as ADC continues to develop successful and well managed commercial agricultural businesses. His knowledge is a positive asset for the ADC Board of Directors.

We respectfully request your strong support of Mr. Lyle Tabata to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

NALANI K. KAAUWAI BRUN, DIRECTOR



DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR
MICHAEL A. DAHLIG, MANAGING DIRECTOR

Testimony of Nalani K. Brun
Director,
Office of Economic Development
County of Kauai

Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
April 8, 2022; 1:00 pm Conference
Room 224 & Videoconference

In consideration of
GM550 Lyle Tabata Gubernatorial
Nominee for the Agribusiness
Development Corporation

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

I am honored to testify in strong support for the appointment of Mr. Lyle Tabata as the Kaua'i representative to the Agribusiness Development Corporation which will oversee activities on ADV lands including the many acres on Kaua'i.

While working with Mr. Tabata throughout his career at the County of Kaua'i in Public Works, Lyle was able to negotiate many projects to fruition and always brought not just a business view to project management but also a local voice of the community and business community. His many years working with plantation companies around the island provided him with an amazing knowledge of the innerworkings of Kaua'i water systems and land management which was extremely useful to the County of Kaua'i and will continue to be invaluable to the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Mr. Tabata has distinguished himself as a leader who balances innovative operations with fiscal responsibility. Most importantly, Mr. Tabata's experience and understanding of the needs of all the stakeholders related to agriculture, water and land use will add another level of expertise to supplement the commission.

I am confident in Mr. Tabata's ability to make sound choices for land management for our state and county and support your appointment of him to the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Thank you for your consideration.



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

GM550
Agribusiness Development Corporation, LYLE TABATA

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 GM550** to confirm Gubernatorial Nominee, Lyle Tabata, to the Agribusiness Development Corporation with a term to expire 06-30-2026.

Mr. Tabata's diverse background and experience in agriculture, engineering, and water would be invaluable to ADC as they continue to partner with farmers, ranchers, and aquaculture groups to optimize the use of selected high-value lands, water systems, and infrastructure for commercial agricultural use for the economic, environmental, and social benefit of the people of Hawaii.

Nicole Galase
Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director



GM-550

Submitted on: 4/7/2022 12:05:23 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 support the confirmation of Lyle Tabata to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.