

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 AND THE ENVIRONMENT

CONFERENCE ROOM 224 AND VIDEOCONFERENCE

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 688

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides, Gubernatorial Nominee, STEVE RUSSO, for a term to expire 06-30-2025.

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Governor's Message No. 688. This measure seeks to confirm Steve Russo to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides to fill the vacant Pesticides Industry seat. The Department of Agriculture strongly supports this measure.

Mr. Russo is currently the Regional Support Manager for Terminix International. Mr. Russo is familiar with pesticides, pesticide law, education, and safety from his time working for the Department of Agriculture as an Inspector, an Education and Outreach Specialist, and the supervisor for both the Education and Outreach, and Registration and Licensing sections of the Pesticides Branch.

Mr. Russo's experience working for Terminix International as a Regional Support Manager puts him in a unique position in terms of experience. The company employs a large number of pest control technicians and Mr. Russo must ensure that each of those technicians understand all relevant rules and statutes provided by the state and federal governments as well as enforcing internal policies of their company.

Mr. Russo has nearly two decades of both environmental and pesticide specific experience in the public and private sectors covering a broad range of topics. His expertise representing the Pesticide Industry is broad ranging and with his knowledge of



2

state and federal statutes Mr. Russo is an excellent candidate for the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

GM-688

Submitted on: 4/8/2022 2:56:23 PM

Testimony for AEN on 4/11/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tim Lyons	Testifying for Hawaii Pest Control Association	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

The Hawaii Pest Control Association is in full support of this nomination to the DOA Advisory Committee on Pesticides. Mr. Russo is fully qualified for this position based on his prior work experiences.

Mr. Russo has served the pest control industry by participating in several of the HPCA committees and the HPCA Board of Directors, as well as a trainer and instructor while offering a variety of classes to the industry. He articulates well on what can be very complex and scientific matters

Additionally, Mr Russo is a former employee of DOA and therefore has the unique experience of approaching the subject matter from both a regulatory and as a practical user of pesticides.

We beleive he will be an asset to the Advisory Committee and urge your advise and consent,

Thank you.