



March 13, 2023

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

Aloha Chair Gabbard and Member of the Agricultural Committee,

Subject: Ms. Sharon Hurd, Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture

I am writing this letter supporting Sharon Hurd as the Gubernatorial Nominee to lead the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA).

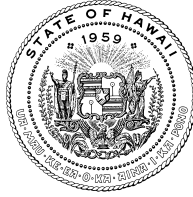
I have known Sharon for over eighteen months while representing Hawai'i in Congress. Sharon has been an invaluable asset in my work to advance Hawaii's agriculture interests. She provided significant insight into policies that work for Hawai'i while recommending program modifications to help agribusiness prosper. I am especially impressed by her "Service Before Self" commitment to excellence in customer service, assisting all those who need help growing their businesses. Sharon firmly understands the cost of doing business challenges faced by Hawai'i agribusinesses and leveraged her knowledge of federal grants to help farmers thrive. Sharon leads by example, and this bolds well for advancing the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture mission.

Just two centuries ago, the Hawaiian Islands through its indigenous population had developed a highly sophisticated food production system capable of feeding its entire population. Today 90% of our food is imported and 80% of our agricultural production is exported. Food security is vital to the health and well being of our State & must be elevated to the highest priority to protect the state from global calamities, natural disasters or economic disruptions. I am confident that nominee Sharon Hurd is committed to growing Hawaii's agricultural industry from the ground up by increasing homegrown food production and strengthening infrastructure to grow our food capacity. From requiring the purchase of local fresh food products and canoe plants to supply our government institutions to stabilizing and growing our local dairy and grass fed beef industry and supporting farmers markets across the State, I am confident that under Sharon's leadership the Department of Agriculture will double local food production under her tenure.

I have the utmost confidence in the abilities, talent and integrity of Gubernatorial Nominee Sharon Hurd to lead the Hawaii Department of Agriculture as its Chairperson and I give her my highest recommendation for your confirmation.

Hau'oli Ka Mana'o,
The Honorable Kaiali'i Kahele
Member of Congress (2021-2023)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'Kaiali'i Kahele'.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

Testimony of
Josh Green, M.D.
Governor, State of Hawaii

Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Monday, March 13, 2023
1:05 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 224 and Videoconference

In consideration of
Governor's Message No. 501

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and members of the Senate Committee on
Agriculture and Environment:

I respectfully request your favorable consideration of Governor's Message No. 501, appointment of Sharon Hurd to serve as Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture.

With over 15 years of service with the Department of Agriculture, Sharon has cultivated extensive experience and knowledge in the operations and management of the Department of Agriculture. As former Business Development Program Manager of the Department of Agriculture, Sharon managed oversight and operational control of grant programs that focused on securing and administering millions of dollars in grants to increase the quantity and quality of locally grown food. Sharon's longstanding service with the Department of Agriculture has enabled her to gain both leadership experience and an understanding of the workings of the Department and government, as well as the confidence of Department employees who recognize her ability to lead and her commitment to enhance agriculture in our State.

In addition to public service, Sharon worked for Delta Air Lines Inc. as Cargo Sales Manager where she gained 25 years of experience and insight into air cargo sales, contract negotiation, logistical planning, and customer service. Her collective track record of achievement spans over 40 years, thereby attaining solid knowledge and familiarity with state and federal regulations, specialization in procurement, grant

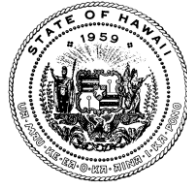
Testimony of Office of the Governor
Governor's Message No. 501
March 13, 2023
Page 2

administration, and contracting procedures. These essential skills will enable Sharon to plan, direct, and coordinate the various activities of the Department of Agriculture.

Sharon earned a Bachelor of Arts in zoology from the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

I am confident that Sharon Hurd's extensive experiences and leadership in government, particularly in the Department of Agriculture, will enable her to serve the State and community well as Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture.

Mahalo for your consideration.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
P. O. BOX 3378
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

WRITTEN
TESTIMONY
ONLY

In reply, please refer to:
File:

Testimony in SUPPORT of GM501
Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Chairperson, Department of
Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, SHARON HURD, for a term to expire 12-07-2026.

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Hearing Date: 3/13/2023

Room Number: 224

1 **Fiscal Implications:** N/A.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports the nomination of Sharon
3 Hurd for Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture for the State of Hawaii.

4

5 Ms. Hurd's resume describes extensive experience with complex regulatory, business
6 development, and marketing sectors. These skills are relevant to growing, diversifying, and
7 promoting Hawaii's specialty agricultural products to the world. She has working relationships
8 at all levels of the public and private sectors from which to draw inspiration and partnerships.

9

10 In particular, DOH lauds Ms. Hurd's leadership with the "Double BUX" program that provided a
11 market for local produce but also made nutritious foods more accessible and affordable, which is
12 a proven primary prevention strategy in public health.

13

14 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

15

16 **Offered Amendments:** None



TESTIMONY BY:
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
DREANALEE K. KALILI
TAMMY L. LEE
ROBIN K. SHISHIDO
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

Monday, March 13, 2023
1:00 P.M.
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
State Capitol

In consideration of
Governor's Message 501
Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Chairperson, Department of
Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, Sharon Hurd

Senate Committee on Agriculture & Environment

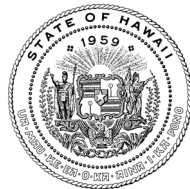
The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** the confirmation of Sharon Hurd the Chairperson for the Department of Agriculture (DOA).

Ms. Hurd received her bachelors from the University of Hawaii. She has worked with the DOA for the past 15 years, most recently as Business Development Program Manager. In this role she managed oversight and operational control of grant programs intended to increase the quantity and quality of locally grown food. She was instrumental in working on the "Buy Local, It Matters" campaign to encourage residents to purchase locally produced goods.

The DOT believes that Ms. Hurd's vast experience working with stakeholders in the agriculture industry, along with her ability to work collaboratively with public and private sectors to market Hawaii products makes her an ideal person to lead the DOA as its Chairperson.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
Ka 'Oihana Mālama Mo'ohelu a Kālā
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT

WRITTEN TESTIMONY BY
SABRINA NASIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE

TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 501

March 13, 2023
1:05 p.m.
Room 224 & Videoconference

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE
CHAIRPERSON, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,
SHARON HURD, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-31-2026.

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

I strongly support the appointment of Sharon Hurd to the position of Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture (DOA). I am working with Ms. Hurd in my professional capacity as Deputy Director of Finance.

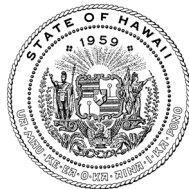
Governor Green's administration shares his priorities of homelessness and housing, the cost of living, climate change, and health care for the people of Hawai'i. We are committed to take action to make the needed changes to move Hawai'i forward.

Ms. Hurd is an integral part of a team that is dedicated to achieving the goals of this administration in an honest, transparent, accountable, and responsive manner.

Ms. Hurd has been serving as the Chairperson of the DOA since January 2023. Prior to that, she worked at the DOA as the Business Development Program Manager since 2007 and was a Delta Air Lines Cargo Sales Manager from 1977-2003. Her work experience at the DOA for nearly 16 years will benefit the department and the State; therefore, I support her confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
Ka 'Oihana Mālama Mo'ohelu a Kālā
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT

WRITTEN TESTIMONY BY
LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE

TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 501

March 13, 2023
1:05 p.m.
Room 224 & Videoconference

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE
CHAIRPERSON, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,
SHARON HURD, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-31-2026.

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

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Governor Green's administration shares his priorities of homelessness and housing, the cost of living, climate change, and health care for the people of Hawai'i. We are committed to take action to make the needed changes to move Hawai'i forward.

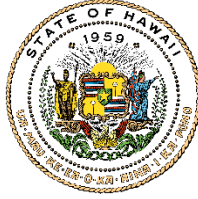
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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



**STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA**

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
DAWN N.S. CHANG
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**Monday, March 13, 2023
1:05 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 501
RELATING TO GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE SHARON HURD FOR CHAIRPERSON
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

Governor's Message 501 proposes to confirm as the Chairperson, Department of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, Sharon Hurd, for a term to expire 12-31-2026. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure.**

The Department recognizes that Ms. Sharon Hurd has held positions at the Department of Agriculture as Business Development Program Manager and as Cargo Sales Manager for Delta Air Lines.

She has extensive experience with agriculture in Hawai'i, grant administration and contracting procedures, fiscal management, and agricultural marketing including the "Buy Local, It Matters" campaign. The skills and relationships that Ms. Hurd has built for the benefit of Hawai'i residents make her an ideal candidate for the Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture.

On a personal level, I find Ms. Hurd to be passionate about agriculture, responsive, open to discussion, and collaborative. In only the couple months since Ms. Hurd and I were appointed, we have met multiple times to make tangible progress on fulfilling Act 90, and other matters that involve both departments. I look forward to continuing to work closely with Ms. Hurd. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Governor's Message 501.

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

LAURA H.E. KAAKUA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

WILLIAM G. KUNSTMAN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
KA 'OIHANA PONO LIMAHAHA

March 13, 2023

To: The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
The Honorable Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Date: Monday, March 13, 2023

Time: 1:05 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 224 & Videoconference, State Capitol

From: Jade T. Butay, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

Re: GM 501; Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Chairperson, Department of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, SHARON HURD, for a term to expire 12-31-2026.

The Department of Labor and Industrial Relations **strongly supports** the confirmation of Sharon Hurd as Chairperson to the Department of Agriculture (DOA).

Ms. Hurd possesses the knowledge and experience to successfully lead the DOA. She has a degree in Zoology and over 15 years of experience with the DOA, most recently as the Business Development Program Manager. At the DOA, Ms. Hurd gained a valuable knowledge of state and federal agriculture laws and policy administration. In addition, Ms. Hurd's background as the Cargo Sales Manager for Delta Air Lines where is gained experience and insight into air cargo sales, contract negotiation, logistical planning, and customer service will serve her well as she leads the DOA through federal and state regulations, procurement, grant administrations, and contracting procedures.

Ms. Hurd proudly worked on the "Buy Local, It Matters" call to action campaign to encourage residents to purchase locally produced goods. She commands respect in all levels of agriculture who commend her collaborative and inclusive style of leadership to collectively move our state toward a more sustainable and food secure future, while protecting Hawaii's fragile eco-systems at every level.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Governor's Message 501.



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

NADINE Y. ANDO
DIRECTOR | KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA
SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA

DEAN I HAZAMA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR | KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

KA 'OIHANA PILI KĀLEPA
335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310
P.O. BOX 541
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
Phone Number: (808) 586-2850
Fax Number: (808) 586-2856
cca.hawaii.gov

March 10, 2023

To: The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair,
The Honorable Herbert M. Richards III, Vice Chair,
Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land

Date: Monday, March 13, 2023

Time: 1:05 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 224 & Via Videoconference

From: Nadine Ando

**Re: G.M. 501, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS
THE CHAIRPERSON, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, GUBERNATORIAL
NOMINEE, SHARON HURD, FOR TERM TO EXPIER 12-31-2026.**

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

I write in strong support of the confirmation of Sharon Hurd as Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture. Nominee Hurd's extensive and long work history with the Department of Agriculture makes her eminently qualified to lead the Department.

Nominee Hurd's resume amply demonstrates the depth of experience that makes her well-qualified to serve as Chairperson. She had served as the Department's Business Development Manager for 15 years prior to her appointment and had served for 10 years within that time period as acting administrator overseeing three branches and staff members of the Agricultural Development Division.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

JOSH GREEN M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



GARY S. SUGANUMA
DIRECTOR

KRISTEN M.R. SAKAMOTO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION

Ka 'Oihana 'Auhau
P.O. BOX 259

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
PHONE NO: (808) 587-1540
FAX NO: (808) 587-1560

**TESTIMONY OF
GARY S. SUGANUMA, DIRECTOR OF TAXATION**

TESTIMONY ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

In consideration of G.M. No. 501

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture, Gubernatorial nominee, Sharon Hurd

BEFORE THE:

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

DATE: Monday, March 13, 2023

TIME: 1:05 p.m.

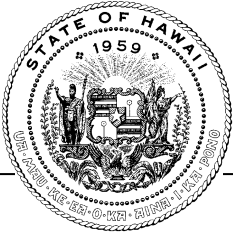
LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 224

Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of the confirmation of Ms. Sharon Hurd as the Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture (AGR).

I believe Ms. Hurd's years of leadership experience within AGR and her private sector business experience will enable her to be an effective leader for AGR. Through my interactions with her, I am confident that Ms. Hurd is prepared and committed to lead AGR and that she has the experience and leadership abilities to do a great job.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Governor's Message 501.



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF PLANNING
& SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SCOTT J. GLENN
DIRECTOR

235 South Beretania Street, 6th Floor, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96804

Telephone: (808) 587-2846
Fax: (808) 587-2824
Web: <https://planning.hawaii.gov/>

Statement of
SCOTT GLENN, Director

before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Monday, March 13, 2023, 1:05 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

in consideration of
GM 501

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Chairperson, Department of Agriculture, gubernatorial nominee, SHARON HURD, for a term to expire 12-31-2026.

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

I am writing in support of the appointment of Sharon Hurd to serve as the Chairperson, Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Hurd has extensive business experience with the Department of Agriculture (DOA) focusing on securing and administering federal grants to increase the quantity and quality of locally grown food and to enhance the competitiveness of Hawai'i specialty crops. Since starting in December 2022 as the Governor's designee, Ms. Hurd has lead DOA in its collaboration with the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) on examining agricultural land use districts, soil classification systems pursuant to Act 189 (2022), and housing for farm workers. Looking forward, much planning and collaboration is needed to promote Hawai'i's agricultural sector. Ms. Hurd brings an enthusiasm and passion to the Department. She is a leader and partner to help Hawai'i agriculture.

For these reasons, I humbly ask for Ms. Hurd's confirmation as the Chairperson, Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



MAUI COUNTY FARM BUREAU

PO Box 148, Kula, HI 96790
mauicountyfarmbureau.org

TESTIMONY

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

March 13, 2023

1:05 PM
Conference Room 224

GM 501

Consideration and Confirmation as Chairperson, Department of Agriculture,
Gubernatorial Nominee, SHARON HURD

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

The Maui County Farm Bureau on behalf of our farm and ranch families and organizations strongly supports the nomination of Ms. Sharon Hurd as Chairperson, Department of Agriculture.

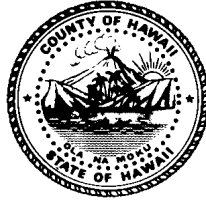
Ms. Hurd has a long history of working with farmers and ranchers identify opportunities to increase their viability. She listens and asks questions to understand the issues faced by the industry. She has a wide network of contacts that she uses to advance the needs of farmers and ranchers.

Ms. Hurd has a passion for the industry and is dedicated to help build processes to grow agriculture to meet our needs and for the future.

MCFB respectfully requests your strong support of Ms. Hurd as Chairperson for the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our opinion on this important matter. If there are any questions, please contact Warren Watanabe at (808) 281-9718 or warrenmcfb@gmail.com

Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor



Douglass S. Adams
Director

Robert Agres, Jr.
Deputy Director

County of Hawai'i

DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

25 Aupuni Street, Room 1301 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720-4252
(808) 961-8366 • Fax (808) 935-1205
E-mail: chresdev@co.hawaii.hi.us

March 10, 2023

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair
Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Re: GM 501 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Chairperson,
Department of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, SHARON HURD, for a term
to expire 12-31-2026
Hearing on March 13, 2023, at 1:05 PM
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and members of the Committee
on Agriculture and the Environment:

My name is Glenn Sako and I would like to thank you for this opportunity to submit
testimony in full support of Governor Green's nominee for the Chairperson of the
Department of Agriculture, Sharon Hurd.

I am an Economic Development Specialist with the Department of Research and
Development, County of Hawai'i, working with the agricultural organizations and
research institutions. I have worked in the macadamia nut industry and served in the
Extension Service before joining the County of Hawaii.

When I joined the County 9 years ago, Sharon Hurd was one person that I was
encouraged to reach out to, and I have enjoyed working with her since then. I have
worked with Sharon on a value-added project that benefited our fresh vegetable
producers and the livestock industry with their cull cow program. As the Business
Development Program Manager, she and her staff have worked with our producer
organizations on the Specialty Crop Block grants and have encouraged businesses to
join the Western United States Agricultural Trade Association, WUSATA, program to
develop their export markets.

In 2020, Hawai'i County participated in the initial state-wide Micro-Grant for Food
Security Program (MGFSP) and Sharon served as its Principal Investigator. The funds
were from the USDA, but their requirements made it difficult for many of our backyard

producers to complete the applications and so we relayed our concerns and comments to Sharon and her staff. She was able to institute changes to the application process and this past year, the application was much simpler and that made it easier for me to encourage our producers and home gardeners to apply for funds to increase food production.

Sharon Hurd has attended our conferences and producer organization meetings and is well known to our producers. She is approachable, listens to their concerns, and offers credible suggestions or directs them to the appropriate staff member. She is an honest, "can do" person that is supportive of our work. I am looking forward to working with her to increase the number of agricultural producers and increase our agricultural production for local and export consumption.

Again, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of the nomination for Sharon Hurd as Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn T. Sako
Economic Development Specialist
Department of Research and Development
County of Hawaii



Hawaii Export Nursery Association

January 12, 2023

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Tim Richards, Vice Chair
Hawaii State Senate
Committee on Agriculture & Environment
415 S. Beretania Street, Suite 010
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Senators Gabbard and Richards,

My name is Judy Schilling and I have been the Administrator of the **Hawaii Export Nursery Association** (HENA) for 27 years. HENA is a non-profit membership organization of Hawaii nurserymen and nurserywomen and industry associates professionally engaged in the export and import of Potted Tropical Ornamental Plants and Flowers. HENA is dedicated to marketing, research, transportation, and educational issues. Our goal is to supply Hawaiian grown, top quality tropical potted plants and flowers for the global marketplace.

Since its inception in 1993, HENA has presented the *Hawaii MIDPAC Horticultural Expo*, a 'business-to-business' trade show and conference dedicated to Hawaii's foremost horticulture nurserymen and nurserywomen. From 1994-2005, the MIDPAC Expo was held in Hilo on the Big Island, at the Edith Kanakaole Stadium and the host hotel, the Hilo Hawaiian Hotel. Buyers have traveled from as far away as China, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, and much of the U.S. mainland to attend this annual event. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the MIDPAC Horticultural Expo has been suspended for the foreseeable future.

HENA was also instrumental in the creation of the low interest Ag Loan Program for existing farmers in rural communities and trade missions to Japan, which began to allow exported tropical potted foliage and floral plants to be imported into the country. HENA also worked with HDOA agents on the coqui frog infestation on the Big Island in order to eradicate the frogs and with University researchers on the soil sterilization issue regarding exporting of nursery products.

HENA is in full support of Ms. Sharon K. Hurd's appointment as Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Hurd has excelled in her position with the Market Development Branch of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture and has a true understanding of diversified agriculture in the state. HENA has worked with Sharon for almost twenty years through Department grant fundings as well as USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service's Specialty Crop Block Grant Program since 2011. She has assisted tropical foliage growers in the State of Hawaii to sustain and expand their businesses.

The Department of Agriculture needs strong leadership and Ms. Hurd is uniquely positioned to understand the needs of both the growers and the communities that buy Hawaiian-grown food and products. She has proudly supported the "Buy Local, It Matters" campaign that encourages residents to purchase our local Hawaiian grown products.

Thank you for your consideration of Ms. Hurd as Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. If you have questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at 808-966-9926 or henajudy@gmail.com.

Warmest regards,



Judy W. Schilling
Administrator
henajudy@gmail.com



Big Island Association of Nurserymen

P.O. Box 4365 * Hilo, Hawaii 96720
<http://hawaiiplants.org> * bianjudy@gmail.com

January 10, 2023

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Tim Richards, Vice Chair
Hawaii State Senate
Committee on Agriculture & Environment
415 S. Beretania Street, Suite 010
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Senators Gabbard & Richards,

My name is Sean Spellicy and I am the President for the Big Island Association of Nurserymen (BIAN). Founded in 1986, BIAN was organized to promote the nursery industry on the Big Island of Hawaii. With 70 members and counting, the BIANA actively participates in State and County legislative decisions, bring forth ideas and points of view specific to people in the agricultural sector.

The BIAN is fully in support of Sharon Hurd's nomination of or Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Hurd has excelled in her position with the Market Development Branch of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture and has a true understanding of diversified agriculture in the state.

The Department of Agriculture needs strong leadership and Ms. Hurd is uniquely positioned to understand the needs of both the growers and the communities that buy Hawaiian-grown food and products. She has proudly supported the "Buy Local, It Matters" campaign that encourages residents to purchase our local Hawaiian grown products.

Thank you for your consideration of Ms. Hurd as Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. If you have questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at 808-966-7169 or email at sean@rpetropicals.com.

With warm regards,

Sean Spellicy
President, BIAN

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/9/2023 4:22:39 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacqueline Wikum	Testifying for Pohaku Farm	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Sharon Hurd has been a tremendous voice on behalf of farmers and agribusinesses. Her confirmation should be an easy decision.

Mahalo nui loa,
Jacqueline Wikum
President, Pohaku Farm

Matson Navigation Company, Inc.
In Support of GM501
Before the Committee on Agriculture and Environment
March 13, 2023

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

Matson Navigation Company, Inc. (Matson) supports GM501, which nominates Sharon Hurd to serve as Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture. Ms. Hurd has been a dedicated, longtime public servant and has successfully promoted Hawaii's agricultural products to the mainland and the world. Her decades of experience in state government gives her unique insight into operations of the State of Hawaii. Matson has always found Ms. Hurd to be open, fair, and transparent. We believe she will execute her duties with fairness and competence.

Thank you for considering our testimony in support.

Hawaii Harbor Users Group
In Support of GM501
Before the Committee on Agriculture and Environment
March 13, 2023

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

The Hawaii Harbor Users Group (HHUG) is a non-profit maritime transportation industry group comprised of key commercial harbor users statewide. HHUG supports GM501, which nominates Sharon Hurd to serve as Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture. Ms. Hurd has been a dedicated, longtime public servant and has successfully promoted Hawaii's agricultural products to the mainland and the world. Her decades of experience in state government gives her unique insight into operations of the State of Hawaii. HHUG has always found Ms. Hurd to be open, fair, and transparent. We believe she will execute her duties with fairness and competence.

Thank you for considering our testimony in support.



www.hawaiihempfarmersassociation.org

March 8, 2023

RE: Ms. Sharon Hurd, Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture

Aloha Chair Gabbard and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture,

It is apparent that the deep regard for Hawaii farmers and a natural inclination towards collaborative problems solving will serve Ms. Sharon Hurd in her capacity as Chair of the Department of Agriculture. Her experience with various agricultural and food programs and content areas, her breadth of understanding of state and federal policies and regulations, as well as her experience/time served already with DOA has ensured a smooth transition and will continue to be an asset to DOA and Hawaii agriculture.

Hawaii hemp farmers have had numerous challenges in the last several years, which has resulted in great financial losses for many farmers. Ms. Hurd is the first individual in DOA in many years to take the time to listen and learn from us about our needs. We are hopeful for the first time since the initial hemp farming legislation passed in 2015 and 2016, that we will be able to work with DOA to create a vibrant hemp industry for Hawaii.

With great respect, we ask that you confirm Ms. Hurd as Chair of the Hawaii State Department of Agriculture.

Respectfully,

Gail Byrne Baber

Gail Byrne Baber

President and Farmer

CC: Governor Josh Green
Lieutenant Governor Sylvia Luke

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 5:19:53 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Louisa Wooton	Testifying for Kauai Kunana Dairy	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kakou Chair Gabbard and members of the AEN Committee,

Please accept this letter in strong support of the nomination of Sharon K. Hurd to Chair the Department of Agriculture.

Our family operates the only dairy on the Garden Island of Kaua'i. We have been farming on Kaua'i since 1979, and opened our small goat dairy in 1999.

Over the past few years, we have observed the passion and energy that Sharon has brought to her job at DOA. I once commented to Scott Enright, when he was DOA Chair, that Sharon was the hardest working government employee we had ever encountered. She is so diligent and such a good communicator.

In addition to her knowledge, passion, enthusiasm, and experience, Sharon also brings strong relationships with Hawai'i's diverse agricultural community to the position of Chair. Farmers and the sustainability of the farms in our state will be in good hands with Sharon Hurd at the helm of the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture!!

Mahalo for your favorable consideration of her appointment.

Louisa Wooton

Kaua'i Kunana Dairy

Kilauea, Hawai'i

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 5:46:12 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noe Neumann	Testifying for Lokoea Farms	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Sharon Hurd has personally visited my farm to talk story about the state of agriculture in Hawaii. She's so down to earth and in touch with the farmers. I highly recommend her.



January 16, 2023

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Tim Richards, Vice Chair
Hawaii State Senate
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
415 S. Beretania Street, Suite 010
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Gabbard & Richards,

I am Gordon Inouye, President of Puna Flower Power, a Cooperative formed to support the devastated orchid growers and farmers impacted by 2018 Kilauea East Rift Eruption. I also serve as the Big Island Director for the Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association (HFNA) as its' Marketing Chairperson. I also serve as a Director and Treasurer of Synergistic Hawaii Agricultural Council whose members are HFNA, Hawaii Papaya Industry Association, Hawaii Coffee Association and the Hawaii Macadamia Nut Association.

I am writing today to inform you that our Cooperative and industry associations strongly support nominee Sharon Hurd, for the position as Chairman of the Board of Agriculture. We have had the opportunity of working with Ms. Hurd in her previous position in marketing for the DOA over the last several years and have found her extremely astute in understanding the issues that agriculture in Hawaii face. It is this understanding which ultimately drives the marketing efforts effectively on behalf of the industry in Hawaii. Ms. Hurd also has the unique ability to communicate and articulate effectively with peers and constituents which is imperative for effective leadership.

Agriculture in Hawaii face many challenges going forward both from a food security and succession standpoint and effective and strong leadership in the department is imperative. We applaud this nomination and stand in full support of Sharon Hurd as the Chairman of the Board of Agriculture.

Mahalo,

Gordon E. Inouye
President
Puna Flower Power
GordonInouye@gmail.com
(808) 987-5109



Kuahiwi Ranch

Michelle Galimba

PO Box 24, Naalehu HI 96772

michelle@kuahiwiranch.com

(808) 430-4927

March 10, 2023

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

The Honorable Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III
Vice Chairman
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hawaii State Senate, Room 202
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, and Senators DeCoite, Rhoads, and Awa:

Subject: Ms. Sharon Hurd, Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture

I would like to express my **strong support** for Sharon Hurd as the Chairperson of the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture.

Kuahiwi Ranch began producing locally grown beef for local markets over 15 years ago, and HDOA's Marketing Branch, under Ms. Hurd's leadership, was instrumental in helping our ranch to launch our local beef program.

I have known and worked with Ms. Hurd for many years, and her personal touch and initiative in helping farmers and ranchers to become more successful as entrepreneurs and her considerable knowledge of resources and business acumen has always set her apart.

Also, as a former member of the Board of Agriculture, I have always been impressed always by the exemplary professionalism demonstrated by Ms. Hurd and her team, and their proactive approach to helping our agricultural industry.

Mahalo,

Michelle Galimba, VP

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 9:10:36 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Kimo Falconer	Testifying for MauiGrown Coffee, Inc.	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard and Members of the Senate AEN committee,

I am writing to express our company's support for the confirmation of Gubernatorial nominee Sharon Hurd to chair the Hawaii State Department of Agriculture. I have had the pleasure to have worked with Sharon many years and she is known as an innovator and extremely dilligent. As your committee has already noticed, Sharon, even without confirmation, has already proved her worth by doing the thankless job of providing the Department's testimony on all the Ag related bills so far in this session. Please help Hawaii's Ag by confirming her leadership.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 9:19:12 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erika Zemby	Testifying for Kona Coffee Farmers Association and Kona Bae Farm	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a small farmer (primarily coffee, and pineapple) and a member of the Kona Coffee Farmer's Association, it is my pleasure to support the nomination of Sharon Hurd as our next Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture. Hawaii farmers and the community at large would be fortunate to have Ms. Hurd representing local farmers and the needs of our community. I fully support her nomination and am excited to see her continue the good work she has already started. Thank you for your consideration.



Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment (AEN)

Re: GM 501 Testimony in Support of Sharon Hurd for Ag Chair

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Committee Members,

Synergistic Hawaii Ag Council stands in strong support of the nomination of Sharon Hurd for Chair of the Board of Agriculture. SHAC is a non-profit trade organization representing all agribusinesses in the floriculture, papaya, macadamia and coffee crops. We assist our producers with responding to pests and diseases, increasing production at the farmgate and developing markets for our Hawaii origin agriculture products.

Agriculture is a key economic driver in our small towns, supporting over 7,000 farmers, downstream jobs and a great deal of agritourism. What Hawaii needs is a comprehensive vision for agricultural development that both protects and promotes Hawaii agribusinesses. This vision should reduce our reliance on mainland food, and help us build jobs through strong agribusinesses. In my many conversations with Sharon over the years, she has articulated such a vision. She also **has the knowledge and skills to transform the Department into a functioning and positive force on behalf of Agriculture.**

With SHAC, I have regularly collaborated with Sharon and have seen her effectiveness with issues that directly impact our growers. Sharon has been the face of the Department, tirelessly promoting its programs at both farmer conferences and buyer marketplaces across the state and country. She is well-known to growers, and one of the few people within the Department with a **reputation for innovation, excellence and a can-do spirit.** She is also known for treating every agribusiness equally, whether small or large.

We ask your speedy approval of her nomination so that she can get to work on behalf of Hawaii agriculture.

Mahalo nui loa!

Suzanne Shriner
Administrator



67-332 Kaiea Pl.
Waialua, HI 96791-9501
808-383-4481
www.NSEVP.org

March 6, 2023

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

The Honorable Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chairman
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 202
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: Ms. Sharon Hurd, Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards,

I am writing to you today to voice my strong support for Sharon Hurd as Director of the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture. I have worked with Ms. Hurd since 2015 when North Shore EVP was awarded its first Specialty Crop Block grant in the amount of \$36,754. Those funds allowed me to hire our Food Safety Director, initiate the Hawai'i GroupGAP program, and start addressing the lack of food safety certified farms in our state. Since then, North Shore EVP has raised over \$2M in Federal, State, County and private funds to make Hawai'i GroupGAP one of the most affordable and technologically advanced GroupGAP programs in the entire country.

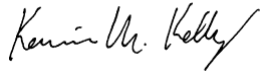
One of the reasons I can share such success with you is because eight years ago Sharon understood the need for food safety certification before practically anyone else in the state wanted to even talk about it. After evaluating our proposal, she took a risk and awarded funds to a start-up non-profit, with no track record, to get a food safety program going for Hawai'i. I believe that gamble has paid off.

I could share other stories with you about how Sharon has interacted with our organization over the years, but suffice to say, I have always found her to be genuinely interested in whatever issue we discussed. Her institutional knowledge about the Department of Agriculture, its numerous divisions and the expertise found there, is rivaled by few in the department. And from my experience in managing awards from the department, she is an astute administrator who isn't afraid to say "no" when it's needed, "I don't know" when she doesn't know, and "I'll get back to you" and she actually does.

In closing, I believe the state would be hard pressed to find someone as passionate about the position of Director of the Department of Agriculture as Sharon Hurd. Her character, honesty, and work ethic are beyond reproach and her standing in the agriculture community is very strong. I strongly believe she will be an outstanding Director for the department.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter of support for Sharon and for your support of her nomination.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kevin M. Kelly".

Kevin M Kelly, President

CC: Governor Josh Green
Lieutenant Governor Sylvia Luke
Senator Lynn DeCoite
Senator Karl Rhoads
Senator Brenton Awa

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



DOUGLAS MURDOCK
CHIEF INFORMATION
OFFICER

OFFICE OF ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HI 96810-0119
Ph: (808) 586-6000 | Fax: (808) 586-1922
ETS.HAWAII.GOV

Testimony of
DOUGLAS MURDOCK
Chief Information Officer
Enterprise Technology Services

Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Monday, March 13, 2023

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 501
NOMINATION OF SHARON HURD, CHAIRPERSON, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and members of the committee:

I am writing in support of Governor Josh Green's nomination of Sharon Hurd as Chairperson of the Department Agriculture (DOA).

Ms. Hurd has more than 15 years of experience with the DOA, most recently as a Business Development Program Manager where she managed grant programs to increase the quantity and quality of locally grown foods and worked on the "Buy Local, It Matters" campaign to encourage residents to purchase locally produced goods.

Ms. Hurd also has years of business experience in the private sector and a wide range of knowledge of state and federal regulations in procurement, grant administration and contracting. Her skills and experience in the public and private sectors make her a great candidate for Chairman of the DOA and I whole heartedly support her confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 10:10:15 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alan Gottlieb	Testifying for Ponoholo Ranch Limited	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have worked with Sharon Hurd for a number of years through her previous positions at the Department of Agriculture and look forward to working with her as the Chair of DOA. Ms. Hurd is willing to put in the time and effort to understand producers, as she has already demonstrated this by taking time out to visit with ranchers at their ranches . Our goal is to keep agricultural land in production, and Ms. Hurd is very much in line with that goal. Please support Sharon Hurd's nomination as HDOA Chairperson.



P.O. Box 99
Wailuku, HI 96793-0099
March 1, 2023

Kaipo Kekona
State President

Anabella Bruch
Vice-President

Reba Lopez
Treasurer

Maureen Datta
Secretary

Odysseus Vacalis
East Hawai'i

Mason Scharer
Haleakala, Maui

Fawn Helekahi
Hana, Maui

Adnrea Drayer
K'au, Hawaii

Ray Maki
Kauai

Madeline Ross
Kohala, Hawai'i

Chantal Chung
Kona, Hawai'i

Kaipo Kekona
Lahaina, Maui

Negus Manna
Lana'i

Kaiea Medeiros
Mauna Kahalawai, Maui

Rufina Ka'auwai
Moloka'i

Brynn Foster
North Shore, Oahu

Christian Zuckerman
Wai'anae, Oahu

Dr. Ted Radovich
Waimanalo, Oahu

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

The Honorable Herbert M. "Tim"
Richards, III
Vice Chairman
Committee on Agriculture and
Environment
Hawaii State Senate, Room 202
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, and Senators DeCoite, Rhoads, and Awa:

Subject: Ms. Sharon Hurd, Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture

Hawaii Farmers Union United is a network of 16 Chapters that span across all the Hawaiian Islands that represent and support family farmers. Our organization's vision is a Hawai'i in which farm families and their communities are respected, valued, and have achieved economic prosperity and social justice that restores regenerative, sustainable agriculture and food security. HFUU would like to express its robust support for Ms. Sharon Hurd to serve as Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA).

We applaud Governor Josh Green's nomination of Sharon, as she is an excellent choice for HDOA Director. Sharon is the right person to build the foundation to diversify the economy through a vibrant agribusiness sector. Her priorities and values are closely aligned with those of HFUU.

HFUU has had the pleasure of working with Sharon for many years, more recently through the Specialty Grant program. We have found her to be an inspiring leader who listens to farmers to understand their issues fully. Sharon's strengths are her ability to seed understanding of the underlying issues, inclusivity, character, values, and integrity. Those are a few reasons why Sharon has earned the respect and trust of many agribusiness owners from Kauai to Hawaii Island. Sharon fully understands the challenges faced by the spectrum of agribusinesses to address the costs of doing business in Hawaii.

As an organization, we are confident in Sharon's leadership, judgment, fairness, and business sense. She is a team player. We believe that Sharon is the right person to lead HDOA and we urge the Committee to unanimously support Ms. Sharon Hurd to serve as Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Our sincere Mahalo,

Anabella Bruch, Vice President

Hawaii Farmers Union United

CC: Governor Josh Green
Lieutenant Governor Sylvia Luke
Senator Lynn DeCoite
Senator Karl Rhoads
Senator Brenton Awa

The Hawaii Farmers Union United and its Chapters are a nonprofit corporation formed under Hawaii law and Section 501(c)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code. HFUU advocates for the sovereign right of farmers to create and sustain vibrant and prosperous agricultural communities for the benefit of all Hawaii through cooperation, education and legislation. Because HFUU is an agricultural advocacy organization, donations to it are not tax deductible.



Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment (AEN)

**Re: Testimony in Support of Sharon Hurd for Ag Chair
GM501**

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Committee Members,

The Kona Coffee Farmers Association without reservation supports the nomination and confirmation of Sharon Hurd for Chair of the Board of Agriculture. We represent over 180 farms in the Kona districts and our mission is to protect the economic interests of our growers.

Our growers have a deep appreciation for Sharon. She has worked with coffee farmers for years, assisting the growth of their agribusinesses, helping them through challenges and giving their products standing on the national and international stages. She has been a leader for positive outcomes on behalf of Kona and Hawaiian coffee.

Because of her unique role in the Department, she is one of the few individuals statewide who have a birds-eye view of both the needs and the opportunities for Hawaii agricultural products, whether it is coffee, cacao, macadamia or avocados. She has used her role to push, promote and drive forward our origin products.

As a family coffee farmer in Captain Cook and with the rest of the membership of KCFA we welcome your support of Sharon and the benefits she will bring on behalf of all growers.

Mahalo nui loa!

Mark Petersen
President

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 10:35:09 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joanie Wynn	Testifying for Kona Earth, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Sharon Hurd has been proven as a knowledgeable and invaluable advocate for Hawaii's farm families. We have appreciated her leadership and understanding of the HDOA, providing key insights and resources for growers. As owner/operators of a Kona coffee business, Sharon has our support.

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 10:57:33 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clare Wilson	Testifying for Huahua Farm	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Huahua Farm is a small family owned and operated farm in Kona. Our crops include coffee, macadamia nuts, vanilla beans, and cacao. We desperately need financial and technical help from the Department of Agriculture, and we believe that Sharon Hurd is the best choice for the Chairperson position. Over the years she has proven that she supports the farmers in every way that she can.

Mahalo,
Clare Wilson
Huahua Farm

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 10:58:01 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Harold M Hoogasian	Testifying for Kona Perfect (Member of KCFA)	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I operate two farms in Holualoa and have been a member of the Kona Coffee Farmers Association for over 15 years. I support the nomination of Sharon Hurd as Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture.

Bahman Sadeghi

Bahman_Sadeghi@mgdhawaii.com | 949-678-4726

March 7, 2023

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

The Honorable Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III
Vice Chairman
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hawaii State Senate, Room 202
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, and Senators DeCoite, Rhoads, and Awa:

Subject: Ms. Sharon Hurd, Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture

My name is Bahman Sadeghi, and I would like to share my support for Ms. Sharon Hurd as the Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

I am the proud owner of Meadow Gold Dairies Hawaii since 2020 and I have spent decades on Hawaii Island as a dairy farmer. As such, I have experienced the challenges that many local farmers face and believe that Sharon would be a critical advocate for local farmers and diverse agriculture. Meadow Gold Dairies is committed to supporting the last remaining dairy farm, Cloverleaf Dairy, located in Hawi by purchasing 100% of their milk and processing it locally in Hilo. We also are embarking on an endeavor to build a dairy adjacent to Cloverleaf. While many are uncertain about the feasibility of dairy farming in Hawaii due to the current challenges and realities, we believe in a vision in which we can make dairy farming a successful reality. One example of making dairy farming more economically feasible is by growing our own feed for the livestock, which is a plan already underway. As we continue to invest and make efforts to revive a sustainable agricultural economy here in Hawaii, we would benefit greatly from someone like Ms. Hurd to help shape the foundation of the industry.

In short, I fully align with Sharon's perspective and ideas for improving the foundation for all stakeholders in the agriculture industry. With her leadership, I believe in Sharon to lead and empower farmers.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Bahman Sadeghi

Owner of Meadow Gold Dairies Hawaii

CC: Governor Josh Green
Lieutenant Governor Sylvia Luke
Senator Lynn DeCoite
Senator Karl Rhoads
Senator Brenton Awa

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 11:23:35 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jamie Dixon	Testifying for Elevation Coffee Farm	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for Sharon Hurd as the next Chair of the Department of Agriculture in Hawaii. As a coffee farmer in Honaunau, I have had the pleasure of seeing Sharon work on various agricultural initiatives and have seen her passion and dedication to supporting farmers like myself.

Sharon has a wealth of experience in the agriculture industry. She has a deep understanding of the challenges facing farmers in Hawaii and has a proven track record of developing effective solutions to address them. Her ability to collaborate with stakeholders across different sectors has been invaluable in advancing initiatives to support the growth and sustainability of the agriculture industry in Hawaii.

In addition to her expertise, Sharon possesses exceptional leadership qualities. She is a skilled communicator, a strategic thinker, and has a strong commitment to transparency and accountability. Her leadership style fosters a culture of collaboration and innovation.

As a coffee farmer in Honaunau, I know firsthand how critical the Department of Agriculture is to the success of our industry. I have confidence that with Sharon at the helm, the department will continue to make significant strides in supporting farmers across Hawaii. Her passion for agriculture, her deep expertise, and her leadership skills make her an outstanding candidate for the position of Chair of the Department of Agriculture.

Therefore, I strongly recommend Sharon Hurd for this important role and I am confident that she will make significant contributions to the Department of Agriculture in Hawaii

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 11:24:55 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maureen Datta	Testifying for Adaptations Inc	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please accept this letter in strong support of the nomination of Sharon K. Hurd to chair the Department of Agriculture.

Adaptations Inc. has been operating a South Kona certified organic farm since 1979 and regional Food Hub since 1993. Our Food Hub connects about 90 local family farms weekly to 575 families through our Fresh Feast CSA and to 86 wholesale customers. Additionally, in my role as state secretary for HFUU/F, I have had positive interactions and admire Sharon’s knowledge and approachability very much.

Sharon Hurd has a valiant history elevating small and mid-sized farms’ concerns to be seen by changemakers, legislators and those in a position to assist farmers on Hawaii Island. Her role at the Market Development Branch effectively ensured relief to numerous family farmers at the onset of the pandemic when uncertainty was driving fear around how farmers could pivot from supplying the visitor industry to feeding kama’aina. Sharon cut the red tape for applying to the Pandemic Response Grant that got money immediately into farmer’s pockets when they desperately needed it. By simplifying the application and qualification process, she achieved results for family farmers and gave them a lifeline.

Sharon has always responded quickly and knowledgably to questions from Hawaii Farmers Union United to help our organization better serve our members across the state. As state secretary for HFUU/F, I can rely on Sharon to hear me and reply to me when I reach out. In addition to her knowledge and experience, Sharon also brings strong relationships with Hawai’i’s diverse agricultural community to the position of Chair.

Thank you for your consideration. I urge you to approve this nomination.



Hawaii Foodservice Alliance LLC, 2720 Waiwai Loop, Honolulu, HI 96819
Tel: 808.839.2004 ~ Fax: 808.839.2033 ~ HFA@HFAHawaii.com

March 10 , 2023,

To: The Honorable Mike Gabbard Chairman
The Honorable Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III Vice Chairman
Committee on Agriculture and Environment

FROM: Chad Buck
Founder & CEO for: Hawaii Foodservice Alliance LLC - HFA Logistics LLC -
Hawaii Secure Foods LLC (O'okala) - Niihau Ahiu Provisions LLC

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, and Senators DeCoite, Rhoads, and Awa:

Moving Hawaii toward a more sustainable and food secure future, requires the passion and energy that Sharon Hurd is known for.

While former leaders of DOA stayed in their offices, Sharon spent her fifteen years at DOA in the field working hand in hand with Hawaii's food producers.

In her first few months as the appointee for DOA Chair, Sharon spent much of her time visiting ranchers and farmers in person to listen to their needs and learn about the challenges they face. Hawaii needs a hands-on, engaged and focused leader for the Department of Agriculture like Sharon Hurd.

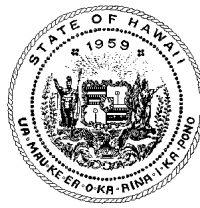
While Sharon is new to the role of Chair, Sharon's work ethic and heart for the department and the staff of professionals that make up the Hawaii Department of Agriculture is unparalleled.

Hawaii's farmers, ranchers and food producers have known and enjoyed working with Sharon Hurd for well over a decade. All who have worked with Sharon know that she is a trustworthy and energetic supporter of growing agriculture in our state.

Mahalo for your consideration in this important matter!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chad Buck", is written over a faint, light-colored signature line.

Chad Buck



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
KA 'OIHANA HO'OPALEKANA LEHULEHU
1177 Alakea Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

TOMMY JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

Melanie Martin
Deputy Director
Administration

Michael J. Hoffman
Acting Deputy Director
Corrections

William Oku
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR MESSAGE NO. 501
RELATING TO THE NOMINATION OF SHARON HURD
TO BE THE CHAIRPERSON, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

By
Tommy Johnson, Director

Senate Committee Agriculture and Environment
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

Monday, March 13, 2023; 1:05 p.m.
CR 224 & Via Video Conference

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, Members of the Committee:

I submit this testimony in support of the nomination and confirmation of Sharon Hurd as the Chairperson, Department of Agriculture. Ms. Hurd has over four (4) decades of work experience in both the private sector and in state government. She has worked over 15 years of that time with the Department of Agriculture. Her experience in state government is particularly noteworthy because she has served within the same department for which she is now being nominated to lead.

Ms. Hurd's in-depth knowledge of the operations, staff, and the challenges facing the department make her the ideal candidate to lead such a diverse and critically important agency.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Governor's Message 501 and Ms. Hurd.



**THE SENATE
KA 'AHA KENEKOA**

**THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2023**

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

Monday, March 13, 2023, 1:05 PM
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

March 10, 2023

Re: GM501

Aloha,

My name is Eric S. Tanouye and I am the President for the Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association. HFNA is a statewide umbrella organization with approximately 300 members. Our membership is made up with breeders, hybridizers, propagators, growers, shippers, wholesalers, retailers, educators, and the allied industry, which supports our efforts in agriculture.

We ask for your Support of Sharon Hurd's nomination for Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

We have had the privilege of working closely with Sharon for many years. Hawaii agriculture is facing strong headwinds on many fronts and the aging farmer is one of the most pressing issues. Strong local and export demand is key to growing local production to offset what we will be losing due to attrition.



She has played a key role in the Grant In Aid (GIA) in 2016, Contract 65519 for \$300,000 titled the “Development of Export Markets, Pest Management and Varietal Development” Then she helped with the GIA in 2019, Contract 68534 for \$200,000 titled: Orchids, anthuriums, new floral varieties education program.

She has worked with our floriculture industry that Administered contracts for SCBGP projects FY14 USDA 63773 (anthuriums), FY16 – HENA 65482 (National marketing campaign), FY17 – HENA 66337, FY18 – HENA 67465 (Potted plants), HFNA 67466 (Educational campaign), FY19 – HENA 68580 (Outreach to new farmers) and HFNA 68463 (Wedding industry), FY20 – HFNA 69208 (Wedding Industry), FY21 – HFNA 69956 (Wedding Industry) and FY22 – HFNA (Accessibility) and HTFC (import replacement).

Sharon has also worked with the floriculture industry on the Sponsorship and Product Promotion program – FY16, FY17, FY18, FY19, FY20, each year HENA \$10K and HFNA \$10K, FY21 – HFNA \$10K and HTFC \$10K and FY22 – HFNA \$10K.

At this critical moment in time, the Department of Agriculture needs strong leadership that is focused on building strong farmers and workforces. Ms. Hurd is uniquely positioned to understand the needs of both the growers, and the communities that buy Hawaiian-grown food and products.

Sharon has the skillset and entrepreneurial mindset needed to support building consumer demand. Her years of private sector experience in cargo sales for Delta Airlines has served her well in leading HDOA’s Market Development Division.

Working in the Market Development Branch of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture, has allowed her to develop a unique understanding of the needs of the Market Development Department of Agriculture and those it services.

The Market Development branch she managed is one of the few programs that actively sought Federal grant funding for growers and market support.



She has been successful in securing federal funding to advance marketing initiatives that allow local producers to compete with imports and be competitive in the export markets. Her administration of the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) has helped Hawaii's unique agriculture to grow.

She has proudly supported the important "Buy Local, It Matters" campaign that seeks to encourage residents to purchase our local Hawaiian grown products. She has worked with the Western United States Agricultural Trade Association (WUSATA) Program to help get our Hawaiian products more recognition, assisting our industry to go to trade shows internationally and domestically and assisted with collateral materials such as Posters, Brochures, Postcards, Flyers. She has assisted with branding to help HFNA utilize the HDOA 'Island Fresh' and 'Seals of Quality' programs.

Thank you for considering our request and if you have any questions, I can be reached by phone at 808-959-3535 ext. 2627, cell 960-1433 and email eric@greenpointnursery.com.

Supporting Agriculture and Hawaii,

Eric S. Tanouye
President

Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association



THE SENATE
KA 'AHA KENEKOA

THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2023

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

Monday, March 13, 2023, 1:05 PM
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

March 10, 2023

Re: GM501

Sharon Hurd for Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

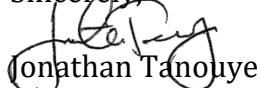
My name is Jon Tanouye and I am the current President of the Orchid Growers of Hawaii (OGOH).

OGOH Strongly supports **Sharon Hurd** for the position of Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA).

We believe she will fulfill the tasks and duties of Chairperson of HDOA in an exemplary manner. Her dedication to her work, community, agriculture and state is clearly seen in her previous management of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture's Market Development Branch.

If you have any other questions you may contact me to discuss and I can be reached by phone at 808-959-3535 and email jon@greenpointnursery.com.

Sincerely,


Jonathan Tanouye
President

Orchid Growers of Hawaii (OGOH)



**THE SENATE
KA 'AHA KENEKOA**

**THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2023**

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

Monday, March 13, 2023, 1:05 PM
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

March 10, 2023

RE: GM501

Support for Sharon Hurd to become Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

My name is Thong Teng Neo and am the current President of the Hawaii Tropical Flower Council (HTFC). HTFC is a statewide association of commodity organizations, i.e.: anthurium, orchid, protea, tropic flowers and foliages, blooming and foliage plants. The Hawaii Tropical Flower Council directs promotion and supports research of Hawaii's tropical flower industry. Each of the state's major flower commodity groups (anthuriums, orchids, proteas, tropic flowers and foliages, blooming and foliage plants) is represented on the council's board of directors. HTFC serves as a non-profit Hawaii Corporation to

HTFC ■ P.O. Box 4400 ■ Hilo, HI 96720 ■ www.hawaiitropicalflowercouncil.org

www.Hawaii's Flowers.com
Share the Aloha!



promote for its commodity groups and other producers of tropical horticulture grown in the State of Hawaii.

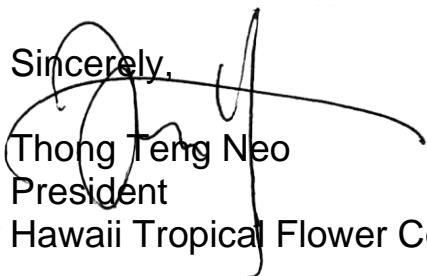
HTFC believes that the Hawaii Department of Agriculture would benefit by having Ms. Sharon Hurd in the role of Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Using her position as Managing director of HDOA's Market Development Branch, Ms. Hurd has helped the agriculture industry and the Floriculture industry to grow. We have had the opportunity to work together with her on grants and have found her to have an excellent work ethic, that would be of great service to HDOA to help Agriculture to continue to grow.

Our interactions with Sharon, has given us the impression that she understands the trials and tribulations that Agriculture faces and how those difficulties can be overcome. Her leadership will help Hawaii's Department of Agriculture to grow.

Thank you for taking the time to read this testimony and if you have any questions, I can be reached at neo@greenpointnursery.com or 808 959 3535 ext. 2615.

Sincerely,


Thong Teng Neo
President
Hawaii Tropical Flower Council

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 1:54:42 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dana Shapiro	Testifying for Hawaii Ulu Producers Cooperative	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear committee chair and members,

I am submitting testimony on behalf of the Hawaii Ulu Cooperative in strong and enthusiastic support of Sharon Hurd for the position of Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. We have worked with Sharon since the co-op was formed in 2016 to navigate state and federal grant opportunities, discuss real challenges facing Hawaii's farmers, and to strategize and receive feedback on possible solutions and related ideas. Sharon has been an invaluable champion and advocate for Hawaii agriculture and truly understands the issues facing our food producers and consumers. If given the opportunity to chair the DOA, we firmly believe that Sharon will work in collaboration across agencies and within the department to strengthen Hawaii agriculture and the local food system.

Please seriously consider confirming Sharon Hurd for this position and feel free to contact me with any questions about our support.

Sincerely,

Dana Shapiro

On behalf of Hawaii Ulu Co-op's 150 farmers



Green Point Nurseries, Inc.
www.greenpointnursery.com

THE SENATE
KA 'AHA KENEKOA

THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2023

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

Monday, March 13, 2023, 1:05 PM
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

March 10, 2023

RE: GM501 – Support for Sharon Hurd as Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

My name is Chris Tanouye and I have had the opportunity to join my family's farm Green Point Nurseries, a third-generation agribusiness, a business that produces Hawaii's cut flowers and foliage and tropical blooming plants. Our products are distributed and exported locally, nationally, and internationally.

As a young farmer, I find myself invested in the future of Agriculture here in Hawaii. I have seen many other farms close, due to the farmer retiring and having no one to take over. I would like to see Agriculture be a successful option for people to choose as a profession.

It is with this in mind, that I think Ms. Sharon Hurd would be a great choice as Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. She has worked in the Hawaii Department of Agriculture's Market Development division and has accumulated information through over seeing grants, to see what options are



Green Point Nurseries, Inc.
www.greenpointnursery.com

working for agriculture and how to build on that which is working. So that agriculture can build toward a better future.

I have had the opportunity to participate in trade shows and demos that were facilitated and assisted by Ms. Sharon Hurd, who understands the importance of connecting buyers and sellers, and that these opportunities help to create a bridge from one generation to the next.

I would like to request that you support Ms. Hurd for this position.

Sincerely,

Chris Tanouye
Sales and Operations Manager
Green Point Nurseries, Inc

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 2:13:39 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brendan Balthazar	Testifying for Maui Cattlemens Assn. Maui County Farm Bureau, Diamond B Ranch LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing you in hope that you consider confirming Sharon Hurd as the chair for DOA. I know she did not grow up on a farm or ranch but with her experience the last 15 years in DOA helping farmer and ranchers she has a wealth of knowledge. When I first heard her name I was asking around about her. All everyone could say was she does one heck of a job in her department. I took the liberty of reaching out to her. Unlike any other chair in my history of ranching for the last 55 years she offered to come to Maui to meet with some of us and hear our concerns. She also went to the other islands and visited farms and ranches. After spending 10 minutes with her I got the feeling that she is genuine. She was there to not only listen but to offer solutions. We all met after she left and felt the same. She was not there like some politicians, agreeing and saying what she thought we wanted to hear. She asked a lot of questions, wrote down things and we felt she was really concerned. When she got back to work she would continue to communicate on some of the issues we brought up and was coming up with even better solutions. Some things she found out could not be done and she said so. There was no giving of false hope. From the time we met her to the present she has gotten a lot more determined and confident in what her plans are and how she wants to move forward on them. We believe she is a doer and not a talker. And is very passionate about preserving agg, agg land, beginning farmer and rancher programs. Great ideas like taking some land back from DLNR that they never followed through and are not caring for and offering them to people who want to raise livestock and have no place. She realized that there are agg parks and parcels available to those who want to farm, but no place for the livestock people. Some of her ideas are really out of the box thinking and very progressive. Lot of past chairs and governors have talked about supporting agg, increasing food production, and preserving agg land but did nothing, the worst was our last governor. He chanted about doubling food production yet he let his DLNR chair keep taking agg land out of agg, not renewing agg leases and refusing to put agg land in the DOA. Our last agg chair was a sweet lady but had no fight in her to support agg. She let Susan not only run her over but back up and run her over again. As little as Sharon is I know she will not let anyone run over her. I believe we finally have a great advocate for agg. I was told and believe that Josh picked her because he felt that she would be able to implement his commitment to promoting agg and keeping agg land in the hands of agg producers. Unless he does a complete change I believe he will be one of the best governors promoting and protecting agg. Again I urge you to confirm her as chair of DOA.

Brendan Balthazar

Diamond B Ranch LLC



Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Monday, March 13, 2023 at 1:05 PM

Conference Room 224

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

The Honorable Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III
Vice-Chair
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hawaii State Senate, Room 202
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

GM501: Strong Support

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards and members of the committee,

On behalf of the Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (H.A.P.A) it is my pleasure to provide testimony in **strong support of GM501**, Sharon Hurd's confirmation as Chairperson of the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture.

Sharon has developed a strong track record over the last fifteen years at the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture. Prior to her appointment as Chairperson, she held the position of Business Development Program Manager where her focus was on securing and administering federal grants to increase the quantity and quality of locally grown food and to enhance the competitiveness of Hawaii specialty crops.

During Sharon's time in the Department of Agriculture she has earned the reputation of centering the needs and financial success of farmers and food producers in her work and decision-making. Her focus on supporting farmers and other food producers drives her to seek their input and collaboration to ensure she understands their needs and is effective in meeting them. Her strong relationships, communication skills and track record within the agency will position her well to hit the ground running in her new role as Chairperson.

Having managed and overseen HDOA grant programs intended to increase revenue streams for producers, she is well acquainted with the needs and challenges in our agricultural sector. She understands how to support producers in being financially successful. Sharon is a problem solver, she will find ways to connect the dots between federal dollars and local producers. She does her due diligence, and seeks solutions that mitigate risk for our local food producers.

Sharon's track record of attracting and leveraging federal funds to support Hawaii's agricultural producers will support a strong agricultural sector. She will work hard to ensure that we grow our local food economy and that our food producers thrive. She is the right person to help Hawaii make progress in achieving our local food security goals.

Please confirm Sharon Hurd as Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for your consideration.

Anne Frederick,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', with a stylized, cursive script.

Executive Director
Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA)

CC: Governor Josh Green
Lieutenant Governor Sylvia Luke
Senator Lynn DeCoite
Senator Karl Rhoads
Senator Brenton Awa

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 6:25:27 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie A Whalen	Testifying for HARC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Honorable Mike Gabbard

Chairman

Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Hawaii State Senate, Room 201

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III

Vice Chairman

Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Hawaii State Senate, Room 202

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, and Senators DeCoite, Rhoads, and Awa:

Subject: Ms. Sharon Hurd, Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture

My name is Stephanie Whalen. I am the Executive Director of Hawaii Agriculture Research Center. I support Sharon Hurd for Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Sharon has been effective in implementing USDA Micro-Grants for Food Security Program (MGFSP) increasing the quantity and quality of locally grown food in Hawaii. She has been instrumental in getting funding to Hawaii's specialty crop, livestock, organic agriculture, aquaculture, pest management, food hubs, soil health and seafood industries.

Sharon understands federal agencies' importance to Hawaii agribusinesses and how important marketing is and the career opportunities in all phases of agriculture.

I urge your support in confirming her as the next Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Sincerely,

Stephanie A Whalen



Executive Officers

Eddie Asato, Pint Size Hawaii, *Chair*

Gary Okimoto, Safeway, *Vice Chair*

Maile Miyashiro, C&S Wholesale, *Secretary/Treas.*

Lauren Zirbel, HFIA, *President and Executive Director*

John Schilf, Rainbow Sales and Marketing, *Advisor*

Paul Kosasa, ABC Stores, *Advisor*

Derek Kurisu, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*

Toby Taniguchi, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*

Joe Carter, Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawaii, Odom, *Advisor*

Charlie Gustafson, Tamura Super Market, *Immediate Past Chair*

HFIA

1050 Bishop St. PMB 235 | Honolulu, HI 96813

P: 808-533-1292 | e: info@hawaiifood.com

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and members of the Committee,

Please accept this letter in support of the nomination of Sharon K. Hurd to chair the Department of Agriculture.

HFIA's Mission is to improve conditions in the Hawaii food and beverage industry by actively promoting the strength, sustainability and resilience of Hawaii's food and beverage retailers and suppliers through highly effective advocacy, networking, education, and industry and community relations.

As a Business Development Program Manager Sharon Hurd has been proactive about working with HFIA to ensure that Hawaii agriculture is connected and integrated with the State's food systems. She routinely reaches out to us to promote programs that support and advance Hawaii agriculture. She understands the importance of working with Hawaii's larger food industry to grow Hawaii's agricultural sector.

In addition to her knowledge and experience, Sharon also brings strong relationships with Hawaii's diverse agricultural community to the position of Chair. We look forward to continuing to work with her in the future.

Thank you for your consideration,

Lauren Zirbel, President, Hawaii Food Industry Association



Funders' Testimony in Support of [GM501](#)

On the Nomination of Sharon Hurd as Chair of the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture

Aloha,

Please accept this letter on behalf of myself, Ashley Lukens, Director of Funder Hui and the Executive Director of the Frost Family Foundation, along with select members of the Food & Farmers Working Group of Funder Hui. Collectively, we represent tens of millions of dollars in investments in agriculture in Hawai'i.

Today, we are writing this letter in support of GM501 to confirm Sharon Hurd as the new Chair of the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture. Funder Hui is Hawai'i's philanthropy-serving organization and includes a working group of 55 grantmakers in Hawai'i who fund in food, farming, and agriculture. As a part of our economy making significant investments in a local and regenerative food system, we are supportive of Sharon Hurd's vision and excited about her focus on supporting sustainable and local food production.

Governor Green's directive for selecting the leaders for each department was clear when he stated that his cabinet needs to be filled with people who will grow as servant leaders—leaders who know that they are responsible for and accountable to the people and places of Hawai'i.

The Governor selected Sharon Hurd as Chair of the Department of Agriculture because Sharon clearly fits this description and embraces the responsibility of personally advocating for Hawai'i's farmers and ranchers. While former leaders of DOA stayed in their offices, Sharon spent her fifteen years at DOA in the field working hand in hand with Hawai'i's food producers.

In her first few months as the appointee as Chair of DOA, Sharon spent much of her time visiting ranchers and farmers to listen to their needs and learn about the challenges they face. Hawai'i needs an engaged and focused leader for the DOA like Sharon Hurd.

During her time with DOA, Sharon administered 10 federal grants totaling \$10 million, two Grant-in-Aid Agreements, Act 313, and three branding programs. This type of experience is highly valuable as we move our state toward greater food production. Sharon also worked on the CARES ACT funding adding \$500,000 that was matched by philanthropy. The total funding to date for Double BUX is over \$9 million with much of the credit going to Sharon's hard work.

Sharon understands the importance of locally produced healthy food and she administered Act 153/2019 Hawaii Healthy Food Incentive Program. The bill provided for \$100,000 as a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of local fruits and vegetables by SNAP participants. This "Double BUX" appropriation was the impetus for a USDA award that resulted in \$1.9 million in total funding from the GUSNip Grant Program.

Funders are enthusiastic about working with a leader like Sharon Hurd, because she understands deeply that government alone cannot fund and invest in the scale of change that is needed for Hawai'i's food system and food security. Public-private partnerships are essential, and our work at Funder Hui and our Food & Farmers Funders Working Group, in conjunction with a leader like Sharon Hurd, represents a huge opportunity to do that.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

Mahalo,

Ashley Lukens, [Funder Hui](#) and Frost Family Foundation
Marisa Hayase, Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation
Jessica Scheeter, Johnson Ohana Foundation
Natalie McKinney, Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation
Suzanne Geary and Usha Kipatrick, The Healy Foundation
Aaron Ellis, Feed the Hunger Fund
Mary Spadaro, Slow Money Hawaii
Abigail Perrin, Nuestro Futuro Foundation
Keoni Lee, Hawaii Investment Ready
Cheryl Lupenui, Ho'iwai Fund
Lisa Kleissner, KL Felicitas

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/11/2023 10:23:30 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bobby Farias	Testifying for Hawaii Meats LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee,

I supports GM501 for the consideration and confirmation as Chairperson, Department of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, Sharon Hurd, for term to expire 12-31-2026.

I have worked with Ms. Hurd on some open issues and can see the passion for agriculture and partnerships to build a better Hawaii through Agriculture.

I strongly support Ms. Hurd and her nomination,

I apriciate the opertunity to testify,

Bobby Farias

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

GM 501 Gubernatorial Nominee Sharon Hurd, Chair Department of Agriculture
Sen AEN Hearing – 1:05 pm
Room 224
Monday, March 13, 2023

Testimony By: Larry Jeffs
Position: Support

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Sen 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. Our family farms grow about 1 million pounds weekly of import replacement produce. I am a volunteer director and chair of the West Oahu Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). I have been an officer of the Hawaii Farm Bureau for many years.

Sharon Hurd has over 14 years of experience with the Department of Agriculture, most recently as the Business Development Program Manager. In that capacity, she worked to increase the quantity and quality of locally grown food and to enhance the competitiveness of Hawaii's specialty crops. This passion for locally grown food is needed to drive the industry towards greater import replacement for local consumption.

Many farmers, ranchers, producers, and commodity groups have worked with her via federal and state grant programs to increase their revenue streams. In addition, she established working relationships with County Directors of the Office of Economic Development, DBEDT, and national-level contacts through participation with the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture.

These relationships and her collaboratively working style are assets to the Department of Agriculture and to improving the vitality of the State's agriculture industry.

Your support of Sharon Hurd as Director of the Department of Agriculture is appreciated. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



HAWAII FOREST INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (HFIA)

P. O. Box 66 ❖ 'O'ōkala, HI 96774

Phone: 808-933-9411

Email: hfia@hawaiiiforest.org

Website: www.hawaiiiforest.org

Date: 03/10/23

TO: AEN Chair Mike Gabbard, AEN Vice Chair Tim Richards and AEN Committee Member: Senator DeCoite, Senator Rhoads and Senator Awa

FROM: Hawai'i Forest Industry Association (HFIA)

SUBJECT: Testimony in Support of GM501, Sharon Hurd for Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture

Dear Chair Gabbard, and AEN Committee Members,

On behalf of the Directors of the Hawai'i Forest Industry Association (HFIA), I encourage you to support Sharon Hurd as the nominee and to confirm her to serve as the Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture.

Sharon has the professional experience that more than qualifies her to serve in this position. Her career expertise paired with her genuine desire to do good by Hawaii's agricultural industry, Hawaii's rural communities, Hawaii's natural resources and generally, Hawaii's people, is clear.

HFIA has personally had positive experiences with Sharon, she has been supportive of our efforts, of natural resource management, and of the forest industry in general over the years.

HFIA understands the relationship that exists between agriculture and forestry in Hawaii and we feel that Sharon Hurd understands this as well. We hope that she will be confirmed to serve as the Chairperson for the Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo,

Guy Cellier

Guy Cellier, Vice President, Acting President
Hawai'i Forest Industry Association

Established in 1989, HFIA's is a nonprofit organization founded by people committed to sustainable forest management. HFIA's mission is to promote healthy and productive forests and a sustainable forest industry through management, education, planning, information exchange, and advocacy. HFIA has over 130 members including woodworkers, landowners, sawyers, foundations, foresters, growers, educators, environmentalists, architects, millers, ranchers, and others interested in HFIA's mission and goals.

HFIA Board of Directors

Officers: Vice-President Guy Cellier, Secretary Peter D. Simmons, Treasurer Wade Lee
Directors: Thomas Calhoun, Jeremy Campbell, Aaron Hammer, Nickolas Koch, Tai Lake, Michael Sowards, Irene Sprecher, Michael Tam, Jorma Winkler, Ron Wolfe, Aileen Yeh



DC Enterprise Kahua
David & Carol Fuertes, Owners
P O Box 896
Kapaau, HI 96755
Email: dcfuertes808@gmail.com

January 12, 2023

TO: sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment (AEN)
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 201
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

CC: senrichards@capitol.hawaii.gov, sencoite@capitol.hawaii.gov, senrhoads@capitol.hawaii.gov,
senawa@capitol.hawaii.gov

Dear Chairman Gabbard and Members of the AEN Committee,

Please accept this letter for the confirmation of Sharon K. Hurd to Chair the Department of Agriculture. I have been a staunch Agriculture advocate throughout the State of Hawaii, having previously served on the Board of Ag for 8 years, taught Agriculture at the Department of Education in the classroom and district level for 32 years and served as Hawaii State Secretary for the FFA (Future Farmers of America) organization. During the 14 years Sharon Hurd has been in the DOA, I have worked with her on numerous initiatives for Agri Product data collection to assist the local farmers and Agriculture producers in economic development of the very successful, "Buy Local, it Matters" action campaign. Her visionary and innovative marketing strategies have been instrumental in Agriculture economic development for the producers especially for those "on the ground" here on the Big Island.

Recently, I traveled to Indianapolis to attend the National FFA Annual convention, of 65,000 members throughout the US and its territories. The Hawaii display booth of products showcased floriculture, Agri products, and information brochures that Sharon Hurd provided to promote our vast array of all related Agriculture programs. Sharon provided State of Hawaii marketing materials for our booth and needless to say, it was the most popular booth.

I strongly endorse her as the next State Chairman to the Department of Agriculture with no reservations. Her years of experience in the department, working directly with the farmers, producers and government gives her a unique insight into the needs of the people and the policies of the DOA. I am confident her leadership skills will serve her in respect from all sides to provide balance to this Department.

Sincerely,

David Fuertes dba DC Enterprise Kahua

And Executive Director of Kahua Pa'a Mua, 501C3 non profit
Kahua Pa'a Mua's mission: To enhance communities through economic development, conservation, preservation, social, and educational programs for our youth and adults.

Emily Emmons
Emily@hoolafarms.org
808-494-2613



March 07, 2023

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

The Honorable Herbert M. “Tim” Richards, III
Vice Chairman
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hawaii State Senate, Room 202
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, and Senators DeCoite, Rhoads, and Awa:

Subject: Ms. Sharon Hurd, Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture

Thank you for the opportunity to express my robust support for Ms. Sharon Hurd to serve as Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA). I applaud Governor Josh Green's nomination of Ms. Hurd. He made an excellent choice. Sharon is the right person to build the foundation to diversify the economy through a vibrant agribusiness sector.

By way of introduction, my name is Emily Emmons. I am the co-founder and executive director of Ho'ōla Veteran Services 501c3 dba Ho'ōla Farms, established in 2015 to provide natural agriculture educational training and hands-on experiences for military Veterans, their families, and the community in hopes of creating a more sustainable community for all. Over the last two years Ho'ōla Farms has expanded services to adopt a full agribusiness incubator model, with programs including Hawai'i Farm to Car online farmers market, and Hilo Food Hub with commercial kitchen, supporting over 100 Hawai'i Island farmers, producers and agribusinesses.

Since meeting Ms. Hurd in 2015, I have known Sharon to be a compassionate, focused problem-solving-oriented individual. She has continued to invite us to the table to brainstorm ways to better support Veterans in Hawai'i with agribusiness programs and resources to support them. She understands federal agencies' importance to Hawai'i agribusinesses and has relationships nationwide with agriculture associations. Sharon regularly updates us with potential federal grant opportunities and ways to approach the process. The Sharon I have gotten to know is an incredibly astute, knowledgeable, compassionate, focused, and multi-dimensional problem-solving-oriented individual. She is an inspiring leader who listens to understand issues.

I fully trust Sharon's leadership, judgment, fairness, and business sense. I believe Sharon is the right person to lead HDOA. I urge the Committee to unanimously support Ms. Sharon Hurd to serve as Chairperson of the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture. Thank you again for the opportunity to lend my voice in support of Sharon.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emily Emmons". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Emily E. Emmons
Executive Director
Ho'ōla Farms

CC: Governor Josh Green
Lieutenant Governor Sylvia Luke
Senator Lynn DeCoite
Senator Karl Rhoads
Senator Brenton Awa

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/11/2023 1:07:02 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jimmy Greenwell	Testifying for Palani Ranch	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support for the reasons given under the Hawaii Cattlemens Council testimony

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/11/2023 4:30:46 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William C Wakefield	Testifying for Wakefield & Sons, Inc.	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Honorable Senators,

Our ‘ohana has three certified organic farms on the Big Island and one in transition. *My husband and I have been farming in Kona for about 40 years. We* have received much help from Sharon Hurd. A valuable asset, she has kept us informed of agricultural issues such as grants, meetings, new pests, and food safety. We feel fortunate to have her supporting us as we call and ask questions and ask for assistance. Sharon has excellent communication skills, so is easy to talk with. She is very knowledgeable, helpful, and cares deeply about our agricultural community.

Hawaii’s agricultural industry will greatly benefit from having Sharon as our chairperson.

PLEASE support Sharon Hurd as the chairperson for the Department of Ag.

Sincerely and with much aloha,

William and Helen “Brooks” Wakefield

Wakefield & Sons, Inc. DBA Wakefield Organics, Ho’omaluu Farm, Pea Nani Farm

PO Box 1454, Kealahou, Hawaii 96750



Isla Custom Coffees
P.O. Box 607
Pahala HI 96777
808-928-0236
ralphgaston@islacoffees.com

DATE: MARCH 11, 2023

To: Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment (AEN)

**Re: GM501, support for Sharon Hurd as Hawaii Dept. of Agriculture
Chairperson**

Aloha,

On behalf of Isla Custom Coffees LLC, I would like to publicly submit support for Sharon Hurd as Chair of the Board of Agriculture.

During our past decade in the Ka'u coffee community, we've worked with Sharon for many years, and her work in promoting Hawaii coffee & other ag commodities has always been top notch - from the 'Seal of Quality' program, to the the 'Buy Local, it Matters' campaign that was a key element of our Ka'u Coffee Festivals over the past decade.

As you know, the Department of Agriculture faces many challenges. Under Sharon, leadership will not be one of those challenges. She has the knowledge and expertise to immediately effect change.

We hope that you would consider a speedy confirmation. Please contact me at with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ralph Gaston". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Ralph Gaston
Isla Custom Coffees LLC

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/11/2023 7:10:28 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jane Tai	Testifying for Hawaii Master Food Preservers	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our SUPPORT for Ms. Sharon Hurd to Chairperson of Hawaii’s Department of Agriculture. Hawaii Master Food Preservers (HMFP) is an educational institution teaching the science, techniques and the art of preserving our locally grown foods. The first step to creating Hawaii’s innovative value-added products is to ensure we have quality, locally grown foods from our agribusinesses. What our farmers, backyard growers and the community cannot sell fresh, they can sell as a value-added product, increasing their revenue base and return on investment (farming).

Ms. Hurd has demonstrated her astute knowledge and understanding of many of the issues facing our state and the hurdles small farmers must overcome. She has been an avid supporter of Hawaii’s agribusiness and a testament to how far reaching her insight has been was the 2005 “Buy Local – It Matters ” initiative. Decades later, it is still a call to action echoing amongst the agri-growers and the entire Hawaii food industry ranging from Chefs, retailers, grocery outlets to the vendors at farmers markets. The campaign not only centered around “fresh” produce but value-added products from locally grown, locally sourced. It has become a household phrase.

As HMFP, we help to ensure that value-added products produced at home and sold to consumers must be food safe and shelf stable. There is no compromise here. Our education starts with the farmers, backyard growers and Ms. Hurd understands the interrelationships and impact to not only the community but to our economic structure and infrastructure. In this respect, we respectfully support her leadership, fairness and business acumen as Chairperson.

Thank you for allowing our voice be heard.

Respectfully yours,

Jane Tai, Vice President

Hawaii Master Food Preservers, Inc.

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/11/2023 8:05:15 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bruce Corker	Testifying for Rancho Aloha Coffee Farm	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

I am a farmer in Holualoa in Hawaii County and I support confirmation of Sharon Hurd as Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

The following 3 points support confirmation:

1—EXPERIENCE: Sharon Hurd has more than a decade of work experience with HDOA and will be able to draw on that experience in effectively managing the Department. For several years she has maintained a very useful system of identifying and transmitting important information to Hawaii farmers.

2—PROTECTION OF THE “HAWAII BRAND” FOR AGRICULTURES PRODUCTS: This Session Hawaii farmers are seeking Truth-In-Labeling reforms to stop the deceptive use of the “Hawaii Brand” in the marketing of non-Hawaii-Grown agricultural crops—including macadamia nuts, coffee, hemp, and mamaki tea. These measures will economically benefit Hawaii farmers and protect consumers from deception and fraud. Sharon Hurd has testified in support of these reforms and in support of the funding of a position to help rebuild the HDOA’s labeling and packaging inspection and enforcement capabilities.

3—RESTORATION OF HDOA FUNDING AND PROGRAMS: Sharon Hurd recognizes that the State of Hawaii has failed to bring HDOA funding and programs back to levels in place before the 2008 recession. The HDOA’s % of Hawaii State expenditures needs to at least be restored to pre-2008 levels if Hawaii is to begin providing the types of support provided by other states to their farmers—and if Hawaii is to make meaningful progress toward “food security”.

Please confirm Sharon Hurd.

Bruce Corker

Rancho Aloha

Hawaii County



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT
Monday, March 13, 2023 — 1:05 p.m.

Ulupono Initiative strongly supports GM 501, Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation as the Chairperson, Department of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, Sharon Hurd, for a Term to Expire 12-31-2026.

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 and clean transportation choices, and better management of freshwater resources.

Ulupono strongly supports GM 501, which submits for consideration and confirmation Sharon Hurd as the Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture.

We believe Sharon Hurd has the ability to lead the Department of Agriculture for the betterment of our State. She has the energy, experience and expertise needed to bring more federal funding to Hawai'i's agricultural industry. During the pandemic, Ms. Hurd led the effort within the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) to make \$500,000 in CARES funding possible for the SNAP "DA BUX" Double Up Food Bucks program, directly benefiting local producers with critical market access during the pandemic. In 2021, she managed to secure more than \$4 million in federal funding from the Micro-Grants for Food Security Program and, in 2022, she successfully secured \$2.7 million in additional federal funding from this program. Furthermore, she has also found innovative ways to leverage non-governmental funding to support the State's efforts.

Ms. Hurd is seeking to expand HDOA's capacity to pursue federal grant funding by strongly supporting measures such as HB974, which seeks to establish and fund program specialist positions within the HDOA to support grant writing and administration, technical assistance, and producer needs assessments, directly assisting local farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural operators in applying for and obtaining grants offered by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and other sources.

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i

She will take a proactive approach when it comes to leading and coordinating projects with Hawai'i's agricultural industry stakeholders. For far too long, the HDOA has focused its efforts on regulating Hawai'i's ag industry, and local farmers have expressed their concerns about the lack of support and leadership. Ms. Hurd has been one of the most visible and active HDOA managers in our ag community. Hawai'i food producers know that when their phone calls to the HDOA go unanswered, they can turn to Ms. Hurd. She is the HDOA staff member who is always accessible and responsive. Ms. Hurd's open mind and dedication to helping farmers explore opportunities and find solutions to the industry's toughest problems has helped open many doors for them. This can directly be seen through her work every year to promote and administer the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, which directly spurs ag development and innovation.

Ms. Hurd's history and knowledge of Hawai'i's agricultural industry is an incredible resource for Ulupono and the state when it comes to research and creating impactful programs that benefit Hawai'i's food producers. Over the years, she has built strong relationships with hundreds of farmers, providing her with invaluable insight into the risks and opportunities facing their operations that she will be able to use to continue to support the industry as chairperson of HDOA, if confirmed.

For farmers and for Ulupono, Ms. Hurd has served as the primary link to the HDOA. When Ulupono has questions regarding working with the HDOA, accessing federal funds, accessing state funds, and creating government programs, Ulupono can rely on Ms. Hurd for guidance and support.

Because of the aforementioned reasons, Ulupono humbly asks this committee and the Legislature for their support of the nomination of Sharon Hurd as the Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs



*Jill Coryell
Hibiscus Lady Nursery
68-240 Mahina'ai St.
Waialua, HI 96791
(808) 637-9995
hibiscuslady@gmail.com
web: hibiscuslady.com*

March 11, 2023

Aloha,

My name is Jill Coryell and for the past 22 years I have owned and operated Hibiscus Lady Nursery in Mokulē'ia. I am also a member of the O'ahu Nursery Growers' Association (ONGA) and am currently the ONGA Secretary.

I am writing to highly recommend confirmation of Ms. Sharon Hurd for the Director of the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture.

For many years Sharon has served as the liaison between ONGA and the Department of Agriculture. She routinely attended our O'ahu Nursery Growers' Association meetings, and routinely kept us up to date on pertinent Department of Agriculture pertinent information. Clearly she has a wide range of expertise in the many different aspects that comprise Hawai'i's Agriculture industry.

In addition, I greatly admire Ms. Hurd for her high level of integrity and her excellent communication and leadership styles.

It is my sincere hope that you will approve Sharon Hurd to head the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture. She would truly be outstanding in that position.

Mahalo and Aloha

Aloha,

Jill Coryell, Owner

Hibiscus Lady Nursery
68-240 Mahina'ai St.
Waialua, HI 96791

(808) 637-9995
hibiscuslady.com



Hawaii Tropical Fruit Growers
PO Box 1162
Captain Cook, Hi. 96704

RE: Support for Sharon Hurd

1-14-23

To Whom it May Concern:

This letter is in support of Ms. Sharon Hurd for Chairperson of Hawaii Department of Agriculture. Since she was first appointed to the Market Development Branch, Ms. Hurd has had hundreds of interactions with many of our 1800 growers on all islands. They have learned since then that Ms. Hurd knows agriculture and knows Hawaii. She has served as a "translator" between the older agriculture establishment, new transplant farmers, university, and federal support agencies. She is a marvel to watch at a conference fielding questions left and right and answering them to the satisfaction of the members and those in attendance. She is extremely fair and equitable to all.

Ms. Hurd has been highly innovative in her approach to agriculture in helping all farms, not just small or large. She has treated us all equally and fairly. She has shared what can only be perceived as her personal time and space for the betterment of agriculture in Hawaii. Her people skills are well known as are her ability to motivate those she works with and those farmers and ranchers she assists.

We are very much looking forward to working with her as chairperson.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ken Love".

Ken Love
Executive Director

March 9, 2023

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

We, along with the many other Plant Quarantine Inspectors and staff statewide not named here, support the confirmation of Sharon Hurd as Chairperson of the Hawaii Board of Agriculture.

We have seen the decline in support for the Plant Quarantine Branch by previous administrations. We were disheartened when most of the biosecurity programs were stopped in 2014. We believe that Sharon Hurd provides the best hope for strengthening the protection of Hawaii agriculture and the environment.

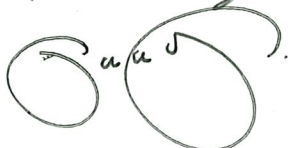
We know that as Chair, she is committed to bring back the Plant Quarantine Branch to a high standard to protect Hawaii from invasive species which impacts everyone in the state.

We urge the Senate's support for her confirmation.

Mahalo,



DONN KANSAKO
ADAM PARK
CARRIE ITOMAN



GM-501

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 6:21:43 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
umi martin	Testifying for Umi's farm and Hawaii Tropical Fruit Growers	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a tropical fruit farmer on the island of Kauai, as well as the vice-president of the Hawaii Tropical Fruit Growers. I am writing this letter in support of Sharon Hurd for Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. I have known Sharon for a few years now and she has always been a great advocate for Hawaii agriculture. She has consistently supported our group and farmers across the state.

Her experiences and dedication to Hawaii agriculture through the years make her an exceptional choice for the position and it would benefit Hawaii agriculture as a whole to utilize her experience moving forward. I feel with Sharon at the helm, we would get a running start in our goal of growing our agriculture industry into a real force for our economy.



PO Box 168, Kealahou, HI 96750

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

March 13, 2023

RE: GM 501

STRONG SUPPORT FOR SHARON HURD; NOMINEE FOR CHAIRPERSON, HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and members of the committee,

I am Chris Manfredi, Executive Director of Hawaii Coffee Association.

Sharon Hurd has been a leader in Hawaii's agriculture sector for 15 years. Her leadership, communication skills, collaborative and inclusive approach to problem solving and organization have been vital to our success. Her engagement and accessibility at local, national, and international levels cannot be overstated.

Hawaii's coffee industry is facing layers of challenges, posed by inflation, supply chain disruptions, a labor shortage and severe threats posed by invasive pests and disease. We are working on a number of projects with HDOA, including the industry's response to Coffee Leaf Rust, quality assurance, traceability and fraud. We know Sharon is ready for success on day one, because she has already demonstrated that to us. Sharon Hurd will ensure we have uninterrupted support from Hawaii's Department of Agriculture at a critical time in our history.

I personally receive emails from Sharon at all hours of the day or night, including weekends. In our experience she is among the hardest working, goal-oriented individuals working in Hawaii government today. She has leveraged national resources to benefit Hawaii's coffee producers, wholesalers, roasters, and retailers like no other.

We have been fortunate to have her serve as head of the Market Development Branch. Elevating her to the Chairperson position will serve to amplify her countless skills and relationships, with predictably positive results that will pay dividends for Hawaii's agriculture sector now and into the future. We can think of no better candidate for this position and she has earned our **STRONG SUPPORT**.

The Hawaii Coffee Association's (HCA) mission is to represent all sectors of the Hawaiian coffee industry. Our members are located throughout the State of Hawaii and positioned throughout the supply chain.

We respectfully ask you to confirm Sharon Hurd as Hawaii's Chairperson of Hawaii's Department of Agriculture.

Please accept our thanks on behalf of Hawaii's coffee producers.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

GM501

Sharon Hurd

Mondy, March 13, 2023, 1:05 PM
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii 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 Hawaii, or 20% of the State's total land mass. We represent the interests of Hawaii's cattle producers.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports GM501** for the consideration and confirmation as Chairperson, Department of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, Sharon Hurd, for term to expire 12-31-2026.

Ms. Hurd has a passion for Hawaii's agricultural producers. We appreciate her tenacity in supporting producers through her previous positions at the Department of Agriculture and look forward to working with her as the Chair of DOA. It is clear that Ms. Hurd is willing to put in the time and effort to understand producers, as she has already demonstrated this by taking time out to visit with ranchers and farmers on the ground. Our goal is to keep agricultural land in production, and Ms. Hurd is very much in line with that goal. While the livestock industry in Hawaii is complex, it is clear that she is willing and able to learn so that she can better support the industry.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director



Scot Willson

aloha@planthawaii.com | 808-384-2065

March 12, 2023

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

The Honorable Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III
Vice Chairman
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hawaii State Senate, Room 202
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, and Senators DeCoite, Rhoads, and Awa:

Subject: Ms. Sharon Hurd, Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture

I fully trust Sharon's leadership, judgment, fairness, and business sense. She is a team player. Sharon is the right person to lead HDOA. I urge the Committee to unanimously support Ms. Sharon Hurd to serve as Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. I have had the opportunity to meet Sharon thru her support of the Oahu Nursery Growers Association and her leadership in the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. She is both knowledgeable and passionate about our industry and is a great leader who loves our state.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

SW

ScotWillson
Plant Hawaii

CC: Governor Josh Green
Senator Lynn DeCoite
Senator Karl Rhoads
Senator Brenton Awa

In addition to the Hawaii State Legislature link for submitting testimony at <https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/account/login.aspx?return=/account/submittestimony.aspx>, included are email addresses for the Governor and Members of the Committee.

Contact emails

Governor Josh Green c/o Brooke Wilson – Brooke.Wilson@hawaii.gov

Senator Mike Gabbard: sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov
Senator Tim Richards: senrichards@capitol.hawaii.gov
Senator Lynn DeCoite: sendecoite@capitol.hawaii.gov
Senator Karl Rhoads: senrhoads@capitol.hawaii.gov
Senator Brenton Awa: senawa@capitol.hawaii.gov



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

March 13, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON GM 501

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Chairperson, Department of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, SHARON HURD, for a term to expire 12-31-2026.

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
1:05 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, 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 the confirmation of Sharon Hurd as the Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture.

HFB and our members have had the opportunity to work with Ms. Hurd during the past fifteen years while she served as the Business Development Program Manager and as the Acting Administrator of the Agricultural Development Division at the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture. We are confident that Ms. Hurd is the right person for this position. She is personable, listens to and considers all points of view, and has excellent communication skills.

As a farmer-based organization, HFB appreciates Ms. Hurd's support for all agriculture and her commitment to addressing the many important agricultural issues facing Hawai'i's farming community. Her experience is complemented by a strong work ethic and dedication that will undoubtedly combine to provide positive leadership for Hawai'i's Department of Agriculture.

Please accept our strong support for Ms. Sharon Hurd as the Board Chairperson of Hawai'i's Department of Agriculture.

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 9:50:01 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Cox	Testifying for Hawaii Avocado Association	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Hawaii Avocado Association represents commercial avocado growers throughout the state. Our organization has worked with Ms Hurd on numerous projects in the past to promote and enhance the viability of the avocado industry in Hawaii. Sharon has always been a strong supporter of agriculture and a positive force within the Department of Agriculture. With her depth of knowledge and experience, and deep understanding of the challenges faced by Hawaii's diverse farming community, we feel her appointment as chair of the DOA will provide the leadership needed to continue the growth and sustainability of agriculture in Hawaii. The HAA strongly supports the nomination of Ms Hurd as the Chair of the Department of Agriculture.

On behalf of the members and Board of the Hawaii Avocado Association,

March 10, 2023

To: Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment (AEN)
Hawaii State Capitol, Rom 201
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Regarding: Nomination of Sharon K. Hurd to Chair the Department of Agriculture

Aloha Senator Gabbard and Members of the AEN Committee,

Please accept this letter in support of the nomination of Sharon K. Hurd to chair the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

I have known Sharon for many years as she consulted with our team at The Kohala Center on many different types of agricultural initiatives. I have great respect for her administrative, strategic, and community outreach skills that have been proven over the last years as she headed up media and education/outreach for HDOA. I always felt confident that she would keep the entire state agricultural community informed of the many opportunities that daily passed over her desk. Her communication skills go above and beyond anyone's expectations, as she would tirelessly answer all questions, even at night! Over many years Sharon, who I consider to be the voice of HDOA, got to know the deep and wide interests of the statewide agricultural community. She has consistently offered deep support to us to rebuild the statewide local seed industry for all growers.

In addition to her knowledge and experience, Sharon also brings diverse strong relationships with Hawaii's agricultural community to the position of Chair. She also brings the gift of being able to see the "really big picture" and the "long view" for Hawaii's food and agriculture future. She champions *all* producers from the backyard grower to the largest business or institution. She is an organized thoughtful true leader that Hawaii very much needs at this time in history.

Thank you for your consideration.

Aloha,



www.kawanuifarm.org
www.hawaiiseedgrowers.com
nancyredfeather@hawaii.rr.com



Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair,
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair
Monday, March 13, 2023, 1:05 PM
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

Re: GM 501: Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Chairperson, Department of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, SHARON HURD, for a term to expire 12-31-2026.

Dear Honorable Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Hawaii Aquaculture and Aquaponics Association (HAAA)'s Board of Directors, representing aquaculture and aquaponics farmers and researchers Statewide, strongly supports the nomination of Sharon K. Hurd for the position of Chair for the Department of Agriculture.

As noted in the Governor's Press Release, Sharon has over 14 years of experience with the Department of Agriculture, most recently as Business Development Program Manager, and has strong knowledge of state and federal agriculture policy administration. However, perhaps equally or more important is her recognition and appreciation of the depth of knowledge of Hawaii's diverse farming and ranching community, and her sincere interest, willingness, and history of reaching out to and collaborating with Hawaii's producers. This is what Hawaii needs in a DOA Chair, to collectively move our State towards a more sustainable future with increased food security, rural prosperity, and a more diversified State economy.

One of our Board members recently recounted that Sharon's enthusiasm and support for Hawaii's aquaculture and diversified agriculture producers was already evident in her prior position with Delta Air Cargo, ensuring that Hawaii's export crops were shipped expeditiously to support Hawaii's farming community. This personal enthusiasm and support for Hawaii's locally grown agricultural products was carried forward in her work with the DOA's "Buy Local, It Matters" call to action campaign to encourage residents to purchase locally produced goods. It has also been clear with her daily emails alerting Hawaii's producers of the numerous federal and additional grant opportunities available to support agricultural research and development, to enhance local food production, and to support local food hubs and value-added product development, to name a few.

In summary, Sharon's collaborative and inclusive leadership style is exactly what Hawaii's producers and the State of Hawaii need at this critical time, paired with an increase in DOA budget support and the filling of the DOA's many vacant and critical staff positions, to enable an expansion of sustainable local food production and agricultural exports.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the HAAA Board of Directors in strong support of the nomination of Sharon K. Hurd for Chair of Agriculture.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald P. Weidenbach". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ronald" and last name "Weidenbach" clearly legible.

Ron Weidenbach, President
Hawaii Aquaculture and Aquaponics Association

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 10:43:49 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Miles Mayne	Testifying for Kau Coffee Growers Cooperative	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Comments & Support from Ka`u Coffee Growers Cooperative, Pahala, Hawaii

The Ka`u Coffee Farmers' Cooperative representing 95% of the coffee farmers in the District of Ka`u of Hawaii Island is pleased to support Sharon Hurd for Chair of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture

The growth of the coffee industry in Ka`u District on the Island of Hawaii, is a testament to the hard-working farmers, and the support from the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. We believe that if the organisation is headed by Sharon Hurd, the entire coffee industry and Agriculture in general will benefit from Sharon's hands on experience with federal, state and private grant programmes and her excellent communications skills

We can from interacting with Sharon on previous occasions, vouch for her inclusive style of doing business; intellectual integrity and commitment to the principles of natural justice and equity.

Gloria Camba & Miles Mayne

President & Director – Kau Coffee Growers Cooperative.



PO Box 1177 Koloa HI 96756
808.652.5286 hawaiiSEED.org

March 12, 2023

Testimony in Support of Sharon Hurd, Chairperson of the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture

Aloha Senator Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and members of the Agriculture and Environment Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to give our testimony in strong support for Sharon Hurd to serve our islands as Chairperson of the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA). We believe that Governor Josh Green has made an excellent choice in his nomination for HDOA Chairperson.

I am Jeri Di Pietro from the Kona Moku on Kaua'i. For many years Hawai'i SEED has worked closely with farmers, and listened and learned of the many challenges and successes of agriculture. We hold great hope for the expansion and economic success of fulfilling the need to attain local food production using techniques that are mutually beneficial to the soil, water and ocean.

As we see supply chains around the World weakening, and our vulnerabilities, Sharon Hurd has the vision to create plans of action and support for farmers of all crops and livestock and our agricultural lands. As a lifelong backyard garden, and a volunteer with native plant reserves, I am aware of the challenges that come from invasive species and changing weather patterns. Larger producers need a strong and pro-active HDOA to provide plans and protocols to get gain traction towards biosecurity.

We believe that Sharon Hurd has demonstrated hands-on experience and impeccable integrity within the Department of Agriculture and agree with Governor Green that Sharon is the right nominee to lead the HDOA at this important transitional time.

Please vote to support and confirm Sharon Hurd's appointment to serve as HDOA Chairperson.

Mahalo nui,

Jeri Di Pietro, President

Hawai'i SEED

KAPĀPALA RANCH
98-1900 Mamalahoa Hwy
Pahala, Hawaii 96777
Kapapala.ranch@aol.com
lanipetrie@aol.com

March 12, 2023
Senate Committee on Agriculture and the Environment
Committee Hearing
March 13, 2023
1:00 pm

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

Subject: GM501 Hearing for Sharon Hurd Chair for HDOA

We strongly support Sharon Hurd to be our next HDOA Chairman. Governor Green has pledged his support to us for the Act 90 transfers of pasture leases from the DLNR to the HDOA and in doing so has put forth Ms. Hurd as his pick to carry forth the transfers. We have already met with Chair Hurd several times regarding this matter and her enthusiasm gives us long-awaited hope that we will finally see a secure future here at Kapāpala Ranch.

It has been 20 years since the law was enacted and 14 years since we received a letter from HDOA saying that they would be our new land agent. This has been an arduous and unresolved process which has left people's lives and land-based decisions in limbo. We have shown our dedication to managing these ranch lands and our ability to grow a high-quality protein source of food. We also contribute to protecting the public's interest in access, gamebird hunting, wildfire mitigation, invasive weed control, and certain native species habitat.

Kapāpala Ranch was founded in 1860 by King Kamehameha IV for the purpose of providing food for trade in a quickly growing and demographically changing population. Today Ranchers are an important economic contributor in the state including the Farm to School lunch program of which Kapāpala's production is equivalent to one million school lunches.

Very Sincerely,

Lani C. Petrie

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 11:02:17 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
keith kropf	Testifying for Manowaiopae Excellent Adventure Farm	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please confirm Sharon Hurd as the Chair of HDOA. We need help growing food for our islands!

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 12:38:16 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yoshito L'Hote	Testifying for Aina Ho'okupu o Kilauea	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

My name is Yoshito L'Hote and I am the Cheif Executive Officer for our 501c3 non profit 'Aina Ho'okupu o Kilauea. We are currently developing 75 acres of County land on the North Shore of Kau'i. We have been developing the first Agricultural Center in the state and are creating solutions to support our local ag community.

We strongly support the nomination of Sharon Hurd to be the Chair of DOA. She has countless skills and experience s in every aspect of the position and will be a huge asset to all of us farmers and livestock producers.

You have my full endorsement of her.

Mahalo

Yosh



THE FOOD BASKET

HAWAI'I ISLAND'S FOOD BANK

March 12, 2023

To: The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chairman
The Honorable Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chairman
Committee on Agriculture and Environment

From: Kristin Frost Albrecht
Executive Director, The Food Basket, Hawai'i Island's Food Bank

Subject: **Ms. Sharon Hurd, Chairperson of the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture**

Aloha Chair Gabbard and Vice Chair Richards, and Senators DeCoite, Rhodes, and Awa,

I am writing on behalf of The Food Basket Inc., Hawai'i Island's Food Bank to convey our strong support for Ms. Sharon Hurd's confirmation as the Chairperson of the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Hurd has been a hands-on champion of the DA BUX, Double Up Food Bucks statewide program we administer, which has brought in nearly \$15MM in federal and philanthropic funds to the state since its inception in 2017. Sharon's assistance as HDOA's Business Development Program Manager was invaluable both during our statewide expansion of DA BUX in 2019 and again during the height of the COVID 19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021, helping us to successfully receive both state and CARES Act funding through HDOA -- funds which were then distributed as nutrition incentives to our state's low-income residents participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), enabling their purchase of affordable Hawai'i grown food at a 50% discount.

As the administrator of programs that work closely with agribusinesses of all sizes, Ms. Hurd has been our "go to" person at HDOA, and the one we can count on to quickly respond to questions, give insightful advice, and provide the "out of the box" thinking necessary in support of the agriculture sector during these complex and fast-changing times. We deeply appreciate and fully trust Sharon's leadership style as that of a "servant leader", one who always prioritizes the greater good -- making her the perfect fit to lead the HDOA as we move forward in the building of a strong and resilient diversified agricultural sector in our state.

I respectfully ask your committee to confirm Ms. Sharon Hurd as the Chairperson of the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kristin Frost Albrecht

Kristin Frost Albrecht
Executive Director

EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR

KRISTIN FROST
ALBRECHT

BOARD OF
DIRECTORS

ANN EBESUNO
BOARD CHAIR

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KRZYZANOWSKI
VICE-CHAIR

DENNIS LIN
TREASURER

JULIA ZEE
SECRETARY

STEPHEN UEDA

WARREN LEE

SAMANTHA
COLLINS

MAURICE
MESSINA

WWW.HAWAIIFOODBASKET.ORG

Administration and East Hawai'i Warehouse
40 Holomua Street, Hilo, HI 96720
808-933-6030 Phone | 808-934-0701 Fax

West Hawai'i Warehouse
73-4161 Ulu Wini Place, Kailua-Kona, HI 96740
808-322-1418 Phone | 808-322-7373 Fax



Written Statement of
Len Higashi
Executive Director
Hawaii Technology Development Corporation
before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Monday, March 13, 2023
1:05 p.m.
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

In consideration of
GM501
Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Chairperson, Department of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, SHARON HURD, for a term to expire 12-31-2026.

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee.

I am pleased to have this opportunity to **support** the confirmation of Sharon Hurd to chair the Department of Agriculture. Through the years, HTDC has partnered and collaborated with Sharon and her team at the Department of Agriculture in supporting made in Hawai'i and locally grown products. We look forward to continued partnership and collaboration under her leadership. Sharon's subject matter expertise and years of experience brings a lot of value to the State and to the Department. Equally important, she stands for doing things the right way.

I look forward to working together in the years to come. Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments and I encourage your favorable vote on his behalf.



Testimony of
SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Chief Operating Officer, Mahi Pono, LLC

Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Monday, March 13, 2023
1:05 PM
State Capitol Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

**In support of
Governor's Message 501**

Good afternoon, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment.

I strongly support Governor's Message 501, the appointment and confirmation of Sharon Hurd as the Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture.

An administrator in the Department of Agriculture since 2007, Ms. Hurd has proven to be a more than able executive. Her ability to connect builds confidence, whether partnering with the federal government or agribusinesses, she has advanced the department's work for Hawaii's farmers and the industry. Her experience and knowledge will greatly benefit the State and advance Hawaii's agriculture industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 12:54:40 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joan Obra	Testifying for Rusty's Hawaiian	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

On behalf of Rusty's Hawaiian, LLC, I would like to publicly submit support for Sharon Hurd as Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA).

Rusty's Hawaiian is a longtime award-winning coffee farm, mill and roastery in the Ka'u District of the Big Island. Through the years, we have consistently been impressed with Sharon's commitment to the success of agriculture projects throughout the state — at levels large and small. In particular, Rusty's has benefited from the HDOA's "Seal of Quality" program and the "Buy Local, it Matters" campaigns under Sharon's direction.

In addition, we worked most closely with Sharon on a project to build soil health and address the threat of climate change on Ka'u coffee farms. This project, funded by a Specialty Crop Block Grant (SCBG), was run by the United Ka'u Farmers Cooperative. It included Rusty's Hawaiian's farm as one of the research plots. As HDOA's head of the SCBG program, Sharon was very responsive throughout our grant period, skillfully leading us through all of the requirements needed for a project that benefited coffee growers and other orchardists throughout Hawaii.

I also have personally benefited from Sharon's advice as the grant writer for the Synergistic Hawaii Agriculture Council (SHAC). SHAC is a non-profit trade organization representing over 1,000 agribusinesses in the coffee, macadamia, floriculture, and papaya industries. The SHAC team assists our producers with responding to on-farm challenges. These include battling pests and disease, increasing farm production, and developing markets for our Hawaii agriculture products. When we consult with Sharon on our goals, she always connects us with resources that make our programs better.

In short, Sharon has a deep understanding of Hawaii's different agriculture industries. She is a tireless advocate for growers, and she has the expertise to meet the challenges we face.

We hope that you would consider a speedy confirmation. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Joan Obra



Testimony of
SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Chief Operating Officer, Mahi Pono, LLC

Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Monday, March 13, 2023
1:05 PM
State Capitol Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

**In support of
Governor's Message 501**

Good afternoon, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment.

I strongly support Governor's Message 501, the appointment and confirmation of Sharon Hurd as the Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture.

An administrator in the Department of Agriculture since 2007, Ms. Hurd has proven to be a more than able executive. Her ability to connect builds confidence, whether partnering with the federal government or agribusinesses, she has advanced the department's work for Hawaii's farmers and the industry. Her experience and knowledge will greatly benefit the State and advance Hawaii's agriculture industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.



Nathan Trump

nathan@islandharvesthawaii.com | 808-895-1261

March 2, 2023

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

The Honorable Herbert M. “Tim” Richards, III
Vice Chairman
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hawaii State Senate, Room 202
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, and Senators DeCoite, Rhoads, and Awa:

Subject: Ms. Sharon Hurd, Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture

I’m writing in **support of Sharon Hurd** to serve as Chair of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. My name is Nathan Trump, manager of Island Harvest, a 700-acre organic macadamia nut farm in Kohala on the Big Island.

Sharon Hurd is a tireless advocate for Hawaii’s agricultural community. Sharon embodies impartiality and integrity as she supports agricultural producers of all sizes and recognizes the importance of agribusiness to our local economy and community structure.

Sharon Hurd has been integral to the Hawaii Macadamia Nut Association’s efforts in macadamia nut farmer outreach and education. With Sharon’s help, the HMNA received funding from the USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant program to hold educational workshops to teach farmers the best practices for controlling the invasive pest, Macadamia Felted Coccid. Not only was Sharon’s support vital to obtain funding, she also provided support with project design and reporting, ensuring our success in our goal to help farmers.

Mahalo,

Nathan Trump

CC: Governor Josh Green
Lieutenant Governor Sylvia Luke
Senator Lynn DeCoite
Senator Karl Rhoads
Senator Brenton Awa



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Ted Radovich
Waimanalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura
Honolulu, O'ahu

Ray Maki
Kauai

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Senate Agriculture and Environment Committee,

The Hawaii Farmers Union United (HFUU) is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFUU strongly supports GM501.**

We are honored to provide testimony in support of Sharon Hurd's candidacy for Director of the Department of Agriculture on behalf of the Hawaii Farmers Union United. Ms. Hurd has an impressive track record of promoting sustainable agriculture and fostering positive relationships between farmers and policymakers. Her extensive knowledge of the agricultural industry, combined with her passion for sustainable and regenerative practices, make her an ideal candidate for this important role.

As a leader in the Hawaii Farmers Union United, I have had the opportunity to witness firsthand the impact of Ms. Hurd's work on our local farming community. She has been a tireless advocate for small-scale farmers, and has worked tirelessly to create programs and initiatives that support their growth and success. Her commitment to building a more sustainable and resilient food system in Hawaii is evident in her work, and I have no doubt that she will continue to champion the needs of our farmers as Director of the Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 1:53:45 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Cooper	Testifying for Hawaii Tropical Fruit Growers	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**i support Sharon Hurd to serve as Chair of
the Hawaii Dept of Agriculture (HDOA)**

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 4:48:42 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carver Wilson	Testifying for Maui Floral	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I offer my support for Sharon Hurd. I've worked with her for many years and found her to be a terrific advocate for Hawaii's agriculture community. Hawaii needs to recognize the importance of our Agriculture Department and I believe she will help to ensure positive results

Carver Wilson

Jason T. Okuhama

jokuhama@cblending.com | (808) 228-6536

March 12, 2023

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

The Honorable Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III
Vice Chairman
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hawaii State Senate, Room 202
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, and Senators DeCoite, Rhoads, and Awa:

Subject: Ms. Sharon Hurd, Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture

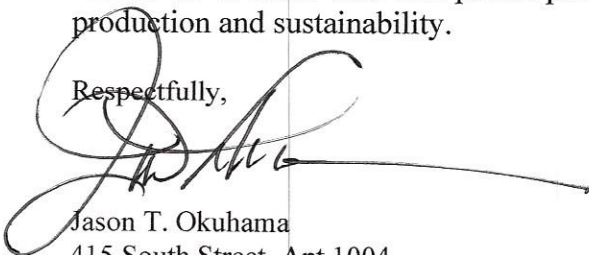
Please accept this letter on behalf of myself, Jason Okuhama, Managing Partner of Commercial and Business Lending, which specializes in commercial loan programs targeting agriculture and food related industries. I am writing this letter in strong support of Sharon Hurd as the new Chairperson of the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture.

Sharon has spent 15-years at HDOA working out in the field closely with Hawai'i's farmers, food producers and the food industry, and she is well-aware of the real-life challenges facing agriculture, livestock, fishery, and floriculture industries. She brings excellent private-sector business knowledge, and hands-on experience with federal, state, and private grant programs.

Sharon rose through the ranks of HDOA and is knowledgeable of the strengths of the department and areas in need of improvement. She has always provided excellent customer service and never forgot that government works for the people. This was the reason she was selected by Governor Green, who wants his cabinet to be filled with leaders who are responsible and accountable to the people of Hawai'i. And unlike previous State administrations, I believe that Sharon will also support significant improvements to the State Agricultural Loan Programs.

With an inclusive style, strong integrity, and impeccable work ethics, Sharon is the right person to lead HDOA especially at a time when the private and non-profit sectors, and the State Legislature is focused on increasing food production and sustainability. Sharon understands that government cannot do it alone and that public-private partnerships are essential in supporting local food production and sustainability.

Respectfully,



Jason T. Okuhama
415 South Street, Apt 1004
Honolulu, HI 96813

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 5:12:30 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carol Kwan	Testifying for Carol Kwan Consulting LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support Sharon Hurd's appointment as chair of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. She actually understands the department, having worked there for many years. And she is big on communication with the public. I am a Certified Arborist with my own consulting company. I've benefited from being on Sharon's email list for disseminating information for years before she turned it over to others. Having a leader who values communication is a definite plus in our State government.



PO Box 42
Waimanalo, HI 96795-0042
<http://waimanaloag.com>

Waimanalo Agricultural Association

March 13, 2023

**Testimony in Support of GM 501, Consideration and Confirmation of
Ms. Sharon Hurd, Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture
for a term to expire 12-31-2026**

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Monday, March 13, 2023
1:05 p.m.

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Committee Members,

The Waimanalo Agricultural Association (WAA) is writing in support of Governors Message 501 for the consideration and confirmation of Sharon Hurd as Chairperson of the State of Hawaii Department of Agriculture. The Waimanalo Agricultural Association is dedicated to the preservation and perpetuation of agriculture in Waimanalo. WAA members represent diverse agricultural businesses, including food producers, tree farms, nursery and retail businesses, poultry and egg farms and horse farms.

In Ms. Hurd's former role as the Business Development Manager of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture, she played an active role in the marketing and development program for Hawaii, and was the champion of the "Buy Local, It Matters." Ms. Hurd regularly engaged with WAA's monthly meetings when she had information to share that could impact business, particularly if it involved the sale and promotion of Hawaii grown produce and products. Ms. Hurd's support and advocacy of Hawaii grown products put Hawaii on the map, when it came to WAA members interest.

Waimanalo's agriculture lands include smaller lots, including Department of Agriculture leaseholds, former Department of Land and Natural Resources leaseholds and fee simple lands – and as a former employee of the Department of Agriculture – the understanding of the various land ownership classifications are important. WAA believes Ms. Hurd grasps that understanding and can be an advocate and for agricultural leasees and fee simple owners.

The Waimanalo farmers appreciate Ms. Hurd's collaborative efforts, especially in recognizing the diversified farmer's voice – as agriculture represents a varied group of farmers, whose interest may not always be in alignment. WAA supports Ms. Hurd's nomination for Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture. Please support GM 501 and the confirmation of Ms. Hurd as Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture.

Ken Leonhardt
leonhard@hawaii.edu
Tel: (808) 956-8909

March 13, 2023

The Honorable Mike Gabbard
Chairman
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hawaii State Senate, Room 201
[415 South Beretania Street](#)
[Honolulu, Hawaii 96813](#)

The Honorable Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III
Vice Chairman
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hawaii State Senate, Room 202
[415 South Beretania Street](#)
[Honolulu, Hawaii 96813](#)

Support of GM 501, Consideration and Confirmation of
Ms. Sharon Hurd, Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture
for a term to expire 12-31-2026

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, and Senators DeCoite, Rhoads, and Awa:

I have known Sharon (Kaneda) Hurd since she was 17 years old. Even then she had a keen sense of curiosity about horticulture, plant science and commercial agriculture. Later, when I had a commercial ornamental plant nursery, I had frequent interactions with Sharon when she was the manager of Delta Air Cargo, since I routinely imported and exported live plants. I was very impressed with how professional she was and how thorough her knowledge was about handling perishable products. Sharon has thorough knowledge of all issues related to transportation.

As a research scientist in the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources I have had many opportunities to observe how tireless, thorough and professional Sharon is in handling the Specialty Crop Block Grant program, ag leases, and the many marketing programs Sharon has overseen.

Sharon sincerely wants to know what your issues are, and she is a very good listener. She is a problem solver with a pleasing personality and she gets along very well with others. She is very much a team player.

Sharon is absolutely the right person for this critically important job, and I have no hesitation in offering my full support. Thank you.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Ken Leonhardt

CC: Governor Josh Green
Senator Lynn DeCoite
Senator Karl Rhoads
Senator Brenton Awa



Written Testimony before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

Monday, March 13, 2023 (1:05 pm)

Conference Room 224

RE: GM501 Appointment of Sharon Hurd as Chairperson, Department of Agriculture

Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

Trees for Honolulu's Future ("TFHF") is a nonprofit organization with a vision for a tree-filled island that preserves and enhances our quality of life, especially in the face of climate change.

We support the appointment of Sharon Hurd as Chairperson of the State Department of Agriculture (DOA). Even though our group does not interact with HDOA often, we directly benefit through a group email list Sharon makes available to ANY organization in the state about grant availability that touches on agriculture and more. What a great service to the taxpayers of the state! TFHF also benefits because a healthy agricultural industry, particularly retail nurseries (non-floral), is critical to provide tree stock for furthering our mission.

I've met Sharon on several occasions and always walk away impressed with her deep knowledge of the private sector, a broad range of agriculture industries, and government generally. I shouldn't be surprised with the latter because she rose through the ranks of HDOA and as such intimately understands which levers to pull, or buttons to push, to get results.

She is customer focused, serves with integrity, and is extremely dedicated to her work.

We urge this Committee's favorable recommendation to the full Senate on this confirmation and look forward to work with Chair Hurd whenever our agenda intersects with the critical work that DOA performs for farmers, ranchers, and the people of Hawaii.

Thank you.

Daniel Dinell, President

HONOLULU is HOT TREES are COOL

Visit us: www.TreesForHonolulu.org Contact us: info@TreesForHonolulu.org Voice/Fax/Text: 808-707-6353

P.O. Box 12051, Honolulu, Hawaii 96828

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 7:12:55 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Una Greenaway	Testifying for Hawaii Organic Farming Association	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Gabbard and Vice Chair Richards;

I have been an organic coffee, macadamia nut and cacao farmer for 45 years. Sharon Hurd has been the one shining star in the HDOA. She has proven time and time again that she has the backs of all farmers and ranchers. I have always been able to count on her to answer a question or make things happen. We do know in this state it will take all of us pitching in together to become food self sustaining. Commercial growers and backyard gardeners alike. Sharon recognizes that. She has helped our organization with applying and receiving grants. She is definitely the best person for the job. Please support the governor's choice, Sharon Hurd for HDOA CHAIR.

Mahalo,

Una Greenaway

HOFA President

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 7:19:28 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Carroll	Testifying for Hua Orchards	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support for Sharon Hurd consideration and confirmation as chairperson for the Hawaii department of Agriculture. I am a farmer and work for Gofarm Hawaii beginning farmer training program. Sharon has always been a top supporter of Hawaii farmers and agriculture. She is a strong presence in our farming community and we greatly appreciate all of her work. Sharon has been helping educate beginning farmers in the Gofarm program and her knowledge on markets and ability to inspire Hawaii farmers is unmatched. As a farmer it is obvious Sharon strongly supports and believes in us and we strongly support her as well.

Thank you,

Daniel Carroll

owner Hua orchards

From: [Glenn Teves](#)
To: [AEN Committee](#)
Subject: Support for Sharon Hurd
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023 8:20:27 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Glenn Ioane Teves
P.O. Box 554, Hoolehua, HI 672
Email: gtmolokai@gmail.com

March 2, 2023

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

The Honorable Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III
Vice Chairman Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hawaii State Senate, Room 202
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Letter of Support for Sharon Hurd as Chair of the State Department of Agriculture

Aloha mai kakou Legislators,

My name is Glenn Ioane Teves and I have been a County Extension Agent with the UH CTAHR Cooperative Extension Service for 41 years. I'm also a Hoolehua Hawaiian Homesteader and along with my wife and son, we have farmed our homestead for 32 years. I represent myself in this testimony.

I'm in staunch support of Sharon Hurd as the Chair of the State Department of Agriculture. In my eyes, she has been the face of the Hawaii State Department of Agriculture for some time, and is in constant contact with a large segment of the farming community through weekly emails apprising us of opportunities and events important to farmers. This kind of connection with the farming community is critical in addressing the unique needs of Hawaii agriculture. I give my wholehearted support to Sharon Hurd as the Chair of the State Department of Agriculture. Mahalo.

Glenn Ioane Teves

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/9/2023 3:32:20 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Kawaiiani Ozawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chairperson Hurd has over 14 years of experience with the Department of Agriculture, most recently as Business Development Program Manager, and has strong knowledge of state and federal agriculture policy administration. She proudly worked on the “Buy Local, It Matters” call to action campaign to encourage residents to purchase locally produced goods.

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/9/2023 3:39:22 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lon Paresa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support Sharon Hurd as Chair, Department of Agriculture. Thank you

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/9/2023 4:06:53 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carolyn Witcover	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am the owner of a coffee and madadamia nut farm in Honauhau on the Big Island and I strongly support Sharon Hurd's nomination. I am really happy to have a person like Sharon at the helm since she considers the needs of farmers. Mahalo

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/9/2023 4:23:45 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Oku	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Sen. Gabbard, Vice Chair Sen. Richards III, and members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

I support the consideration and confirmation of Sharon Hurd to serve as the Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/9/2023 6:21:27 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Franz Weber	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have worked with Sharon Hurd for decades, and she has always been professional, supportive, and much providing a lot of experience.

I can't think of a better person for this position

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/9/2023 10:33:21 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Liam Kernell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

I wholeheartedly support Sharon Hurd to serve as Chair of the Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture. I encourage the Hawaii State Legislature to approve and confirm this nomination. Ms. Hurd is the kind of leader Hawai‘i’s agricultural sector needs to innovate and move us forward.

Mahalo,
Liam Kernell
Hawai‘i Island

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 5:30:14 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cynthia Punihaole Kennedy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of the nomination of Sharon Hurd as Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture.

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 6:59:50 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Edward Johnston	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This email is to support the nomination of Sharon K. Hurd as chair of the Department of Agriculture.

When Sharon was with the Market Development Branch she spearheaded the creation of our educational poster- '**AWA, From Cutting to Beverage**.(Note- 'Awa also known as Kava) This had wide ranging positive results for Hawai'i agriculture. The poster played a large part in the creation of a 214 acre Hawaiian 'awa just north of Hilo by demonstrating the value and historic safe use of Hawaiian 'awa. Pu'iwa Hawaiian Farms are now specializing in growing the unique cultivars of Hawaiian 'awa and will offer educational and cultural classes about 'awa.

The information offered in this poster also played a small role in the recent decision by the Michigan Department of Agriculture to re-classify kava as g.r.a.s. --a conventional food generally recognised as safe. This classification is extremely important to establishments that sell kava beverages. Hawai'i should follow Michigan's lead.

While it may, now, seem small the development of 'awa as a value added agricultural crop is growing with another farm of 250 acres being planted now in Pahoia.

Some years ago Sharon took the initiative to learn about Hawaiian 'awa, a very old "new" crop and which the American Cancer Institute now credits for reducing lung (and other forms of) cancer risks. And other studies have shown it may reduce the risk of Alzheimers.

In my experience, sometimes established values are slow to change for the better. I think Sharon's open-mindedness and skills of communication clearly show she will not be slow in implementing positive change and skilled leadership to the Department of Agriculture.

Thanks for the chance to support Sharon Hurd,

Ed Johnston

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 9:54:09 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

As a long time Kona coffee farmer, I heartily SUPPORT Sharon Hurd for Chair of our HDOA. My husband and I have farmed 5 acres of Kona coffee for 33 years and need Sharon Hurd as our advocate! She has always listened to our concerns and we can't think of a better Chair! **Please CONFIRM Sharon Hurd!**

Mahalo plenty!

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 10:06:21 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joanna Bloese	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

My name is Dr. Joanna Bloese and I am the Assistant Extension Specialist of Entomology at the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) at the University of Hawaii, at Manoa. I have held this position for three years now and study innovative & sustainable pest management solutions to many of the invasive insect species in Hawaii.

I ask for your support for Sharon Hurd as Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

I have worked closely with the Department of Agriculture during my tenure at University of Hawaii, and have come to know Sharon Hurd during this process. I believe Sharon's background and skillset in entrepreneurship, and knowledge of the agricultural industries of Hawaii make her exceptional candidate to excel at this position.

I have worked closely with her in the context of her administration of the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, which has helped many agricultural businesses in their marketing efforts as well as advance novel Integrated Pest Management techniques in Hawaii. Sharon's background, experience, knowledge, and skillset will serve her well in this position.

I give Sharon my strongest recommendation and thank you in advance for considering Sharon Hurd as Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Sincerely,

Joanna Bloese, Ph.D.

Assistant Extension Specialist

University of Hawaii, Manoa

College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR)

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 10:18:04 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am a Kona Farmer for many years and support Sharon Hurd totally.

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 10:22:42 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Klayton Kubo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this nomination. I'm hopeful that the agriculture impact/pesticide issues can be resolved.

Klayton Kubo

Waimea, Kaua'i

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 11:09:04 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Bateman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee:

I strongly support Sharon Hurd for Chairperson HDOA.

I have known her for years in my capacity as a coffee farmer and as a HCA board member. I have had a number of interactions with her promoting aspects of the Hawaii coffee industry. She readily engaged in discussions and was very knowledgeable on every topic. She responded immediately to me on topics she needed to more thoroughly research. She is an effective listener and communicator. She has been a wonderful representative of the HDOA. I can not think of anyone better suited the chair position .

Please approve and confirm her nomination unanimously!

Mahalo nui,

Dave Bateman, President

Heavenly Hawaiian Farms

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 11:26:12 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Teena Rasmussen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my full support for Sharon Hurd's appointment to be the Chairperson for Hawaii State Dept. of Agriculture.

Having been the co-owner of an agribusiness for 35 years on Maui, I had many interactions with Sharon and our farm participated in several of the programs she was leading. We found her to be knowledgeable about the true issues farms were facing, and she was routinely looking for innovative ways to help.

Sharon would start this job having a full awareness of the current agriculture landscape in Hawaii which will allow her to immediately start implementing programs and changes she knows are needed. I urge you to approve her appointment.

Sincerely,

Teena Rasmussen

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

GM 501 - Support

Monday, March 13, 2023

1:05 PM

Conference Room 224

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Scott Enright and I strongly support the nomination of Sharon Hurd for Chairperson at the Hawaii Department Of Agriculture (HDOA). During my tenure at HDOA, I worked extensively with Ms. Hurd and she demonstrated to me that she was a hard working and capable individual. The position of Chairperson at HDOA is a complex and difficult one but I believe Ms. Hurd can rise to the occasion and do a commendable job. I stand in strong support of Ms. Hurd's nomination.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Enright". The signature is stylized with a large "S" and "E".

Scott Enright

Francesca Scola
fscola@nsevp.org| 808-868-6805

March 6, 2023

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

The Honorable Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III
Vice Chairman
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hawaii State Senate, Room 202
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, and Senators DeCoite, Rhoads, and Awa:

Subject: Ms. Sharon Hurd, Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture

Thank you for the opportunity to share my support for Ms. Sharon Hud to serve as the Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

My name is Francesca Scola. I am the Food Safety Specialist at North Shore Economic Vitality Partnership. Since beginning work with North Shore EVP in 2020 I have had the opportunity to interact with Sharon on several occasions, including during our previously awarded Specialty Crop Block Grant. During this grant period Sharon always went above and beyond in her efforts to make the grant's requirements and expectations clear. Her willingness to put in extra time on zoom meetings and phone calls with us to ask clarifying questions and brainstorm exemplified how much Sharon really cares about the work she does and the community it supports.

I fully trust Sharon's leadership, judgment, fairness, business sense, and believe she is the right person to lead HDOA. I urge the Committee to unanimously support Ms. Sharon Hurd to serve as Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Thank you again for the opportunity voice my support of Sharon.

Mahalo,
Francesca Scola

CC: Governor Josh Green
Lieutenant Governor Sylvia Luke
Senator Lynn DeCoite
Senator Karl Rhoads
Senator Brenton Awa

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 12:23:51 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Rhoden	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chairman

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Hawaii State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street, Room 201

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Herbert M. “Tim” Richards, III, Vice Chairman

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Hawaii State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street, Room 202

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: Ms. Sharon Hurd, Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards,

I am writing to you today in strong support of Sharon Hurd for Director of the Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture. I have worked with Ms. Hurd on various projects in agriculture since 2013, from ‘ulu propagation to food safety training.

During the last decade in which I’ve been fortunate enough to be engaged on many different projects awarded through the HDOA Marketing Department, I have found Ms. Hurd to be diplomatic, direct, knowledgable, and very committed to Hawai‘i agriculture. With respect to projects, I have seen her demonstrate her ability to hold fast when necessary and to be able to

transition when the situation requires a change. In my view this is an essential quality for the Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture.

The agriculture sector in Hawaii today is undergoing a shift, which hopefully will result in a massive transition away from an over 80% dependence on imported food to something much less, and therefore much more reliable, sustainable, and accessible for our residents and farmers.

The person to lead the Department of Agriculture at this time should be someone with vision who understands the way the department is organized, how staff interact with the ag sector and how that can be improved, and what local farmers and ranchers need to succeed. Ms. Hurd's experience makes her a perfect choice for this role. I believe she will be an excellent administrator who will bring out the best in the Department. She is well respected in the ag community and is known for her integrity; she does what she says she will do.

Ms. Hurd has a long history of shepherding many different types of agriculture projects through to completion and understands not only what has worked but also what can be expanded on, given the proper resources. I believe she will be an advocate for all types of farm businesses and in particular sees the opportunities for small and medium sized operations to be successful if they are supported. These farms make up the bulk of our ag operations in the state and are a significant resource that has not been leveraged.

In closing, I fully support Sharon Hurd as the nominee for Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture. She will represent Hawai'i well and I am confident she will be an outstanding leader as our agriculture sector enters into a new period of growth.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Sharon.

With aloha,

Lisa Rhoden

Hanapepe, Kaua'i

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 12:34:33 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darlin Kaya-Medeiros	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support Sharon Hurd in serving as the HDOA Chair, I believe she will bring a perspective that will be needed as we continue to transition to a diversified agricultural community.

Mālama pono,

Darlin Kaya-Medeiros

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 3:04:14 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noa Lincoln	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the confirmation of Sharon Hurd as the Chairperson for the Department of Agriculture. As a farmer, researcher, and advocate contributing to Hawai'i's agriculture, I have interacted with Sharon considerably over the past several years. Sharon is extremely passionate and dedicated to Hawai'i's agricultural sector, and has good ideas about necessary investments and innovations needed to protect and enhance our agricultural industry. I firmly believe that HDOA needs such a person at their helm to change the culture and operations of the department. I have witnessed first hand how tremendous opportunities have been left on the table because of the lethargy and lack of commitment (much less leadership) by HDOA. I know that Sharon will, if nothing else, provide support and encouragement to the many of us who are working to bring resources and development to a new era of Hawai'i agriculture. Please appropriately consider and support Sharon's confirmation to the position.

Testimony of Isaac Maeda, DVM

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

MARCH 13, 2023
1:05 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 224

GM 501

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE
CHAIRPERSON, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, GUBENATORIAL NOMINEE,
SHARON HURD

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

I support Sharon Hurd's nomination for Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture.

Sharon has extensive experience as Manager for the Market Development Branch in the Department of Agriculture and with various agriculture enterprises. I have had ample opportunity to work with her and she is an active, positive and enthusiastic team member in the department. Sharon has demonstrated her willingness to listen to industry and staff and continues to make sincere connections with stakeholders on issues. She is respected by many in the agriculture community and will serve well as the as the Department Chairperson.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Charles Bostwick
5520 Kamehameha V Hwy
Kaunakakai, Hawaii 96748
January 12, 2023

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Tim Richards, Vice Chair
Hawaii State Senate
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
415 S Beretania Street, Suite 010
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha Senators Gabbard and Richards,

I am asking you to support Sharon Hurd as the Chairperson for the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture.

Although I am now retired, and live on my family property (Hugh McCorriston's) in Kamalo, Moloka'i, I am very familiar with Sharon Hurd. As past president of the Hawai'i Export Nursery Association (HENA) and currently on the Board of Hawai'i Floriculture Nursery Association (HFNA) I know what an asset she has been and will continue to be to Agriculture in our great state.

She has supported Diversified Ag throughout her career in this department. From the "Buy Local, It Matters" campaign to her administration of the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program she has shown us, and the State of Hawaii, that she understands and supports local Agriculture.

I ask that we, and you, now show our support for her, as I think she is the right person, at the right time, for this important position.

Mahalo for your time.

Aloha piha,

Charles McCorriston Bostwick
Kamalo, Moloka'i, Hawai'i

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 4:47:17 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Ishii	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have known Chair Hurd from the late 1990s, prior to her joining the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. She has always been a strong supporter of Hawaii's diversified agriculture industries. Throughout her career she has shown support for large and small farmers and is willing to listen and learn about the various sectors. Her career shows her passion to take on challenges and puts her best foot forward. I feel confident that under her leadership, all sectors of diversified agriculture will move forward.

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 6:16:22 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support Sharon Hurd as Chairperson, Dept. of Agriculture

March 10, 2023

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and members of the Senate Committee (Senator De Coite, Senator Rhoads, and Senator Awa) on Agriculture and Environment

RE: *Letter of Support*-Ms. Sharon Hurd for Hawaii State Department of Agriculture Chairperson

Thank you for the opportunity to express my strong support for Ms. Sharon Hurd for the position of Chairperson with the Hawaii State Department of Agriculture (HDOA). My name is Jari Sugano and I have served for 20 years as an Extension Agent with the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (UH CTAHR). I currently serve as the Oahu County Administrator who oversees three research stations, the Urban Garden Center and the Honolulu Extension Office. Programs within our county includes, commercial edible crop production, ornamental and landscape industries, sustainable & organic agriculture, EFNEP/ SNAP-ED, 4-H youth development, Master Gardener, Farm to School, and Military 4-H.

There is no debate that Ms. Sharon Hurd is the connective tissue between HDOA and many agricultural organizations such as UH CTAHR. On any given day, we are notified of agricultural funding opportunities and marketing information from the Hawaii Department of Agriculture by way of Ms. Hurd.

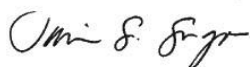
During her tenure at HDOA, Ms Hurd has administered 10 federal grants totaling in \$10 million dollars, two Grant-in-Aid Agreements, Act 313, and three branding initiatives to boost local agriculture production and consumption. Her most recent Micro Grant Food Security Program provided funding to 579 small scale agricultural producers totaling 2.7 million dollars to support small-scale gardening, herding and livestock operations in areas of Hawaii that are food insecure and underrepresented.

Ms. Hurd will bring transparency and accountability to the HDOA. She is a straight shooter and strong voice for local agriculture. She understands the state's dependence on the importation of food and understands the challenges in increasing state-wide food sustainability with a \$56 million dollar annual operating budget. She has institutional experience working with the HDOA for 15 years. Her background in fiscal, budget and federal grant administration will serve her well in growing our state's economy and reduce our reliance on imports.

At present, Ms. Hurd manages the HDOA Market Development Team which includes 6 employees. From 2010-2020, she served as acting Administrator for three HDOA branches. Ms. Hurd's inclusive 'bring everyone to the table' nature would serve her well as HDOA's next Chairperson. Her passion and strength to secure supplemental funding will help seed the next generation of farmers in Hawaii.

I strongly recommend that Ms. Sharon Hurd be given serious consideration for the position of HDOA Chairperson so she can continue to service and advance Hawaii's diversified agriculture industry.

Aloha,



Jari Sugano, Oahu County Administrator

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 7:58:19 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Sharon is the right person to lead HDOA as we transition to diversified agriculture for Hawaii.

She realizes that ranchers are good stewards of the land.

I support Ms. Sharon Hurd as Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo,

Theresa Thompson

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/11/2023 4:37:02 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Support

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/11/2023 8:32:12 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Megan Blazak	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

I write this testimony in strong support of Sharon Hurd as the nominee for the Director of the Department of Agriculture. Mrs. Hurd has dedicated her career to advancing the agriculture industry in Hawaii and was an exemplary advocate for local agriculture in her previous role in the Market Development Branch of the Department. I encourage the committee to approve her nomination.

Sincerely,

Megan Blazak, MBA

Hilo, HI

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/11/2023 9:03:12 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Shiigi	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support the nomination of Sharon Hurd to the position of Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA). Sharon had demonstrated through her years of work at the department that she has the expertise and knowledge to undertake this position.

Ms. Hurd as Director of the Marketing Development Branch has shown leadership and an ability to build a stronger workplace culture.

David Shiigi, Owner of Bromeliads Hawaii, LLC

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/11/2023 9:05:42 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ronald "Ron" Reilly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, and Senators DeCoite, Rhoads, and Awa.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer **strong support** for the confirmation of Ms. Sharon Hurd to serve as Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA).

As a resident of Hawaii Island I am concerned about food security and the reality that Hawaii Island is at the end of a several thousand mile supply chain.

Further to this, are increasing food cost, and the disruption of mainland food production that is already occurring, and will likely continue to worsen as climate change related extreme weather events such as droughts, floods and heat waves impact mainland farm exports to Hawaii.

Reading the impressive resume of Ms. Sharon Hurd gives me confidence that Ms. Hurd has the experience and the track record to be an excellent choice to lead the Department of Agriculture.

Discussion with friends who are Hawaii Island farmers confirms this opinion.

Thank you for your consideration, Ron Reilly, Volcano Village

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/11/2023 9:08:57 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janelle Saneishi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am submitting personal testimony in strong support for the confirmation of Sharon Hurd as Chairperson of the Hawai`i Board of Agriculture.

For background purposes, I have been the public information officer for the Hawai`i Department of Agriculture for many years and have worked with numerous chairs, each with different management styles and agendas. Sharon Hurd is the truest advocate for Hawai`i agriculture - from operators of large farms and ranches to subsistence backyard farms.

Over the years with the marketing department and in her current role as Chair-Nominee, she works tirelessly for ag producers in all agricultural sectors and has a good understanding of the critical issues. Her breadth and depth of knowledge of agriculture and her ability to find solutions to pressing problems have been underestimated by some and I believe that, if confirmed, she will help make great strides in moving agriculture toward a stronger, more resilient future. Hawai`i agriculture cannot afford to settle for the status quo.

Above all, Sharon Hurd has integrity and a true passion for agriculture and for individual farmers, growers and ranchers. She is not afraid to tackle difficult issues and problems - she walks the talk.

I don't usually get involved in the politics of ag, but I feel compelled to provide my strong personal support for Sharon Hurd and it is my sincere hope that the Senate will confirm her as Chairperson.

Mahalo for your consideration.

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/11/2023 9:35:59 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg Takeshima	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of GM 501 appointing Sharon Hurd as Chairperson for the Department of Agriculture.

I've had the privilege of working with Mrs. Hurd over the past 5 years and found her to be a tremendous asset to the Department of Agriculture and the State. Her expertise of agricultural marketing, broad agricultural industry knowledge and contacts, and government operations are extremely valuable to leading the Department. She willingly meets with constituents and staff to discuss and understand many issues. Her ability to gather information and render fair, methodical, and data driven decisions will put the Department in a position to succeed.

The State and Department will be well served with Mrs. Hurd as Chairperson. I strongly support Mrs. Hurd and ask the committee to confirm her. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Greg Y. Takeshima

Acting Pesticides Program Manager

Hawaii Department of Agriculture, Pesticides Branch

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/11/2023 1:39:00 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
VINCENT KIMURA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly support Sharon Hurd's confirmation for chair of the department of agriculture. I've known Sharon for almost a decade, she holds space for those who make a living farming. She understands the economics, she makes decisions to support the majority of farmers in hawaii, she has the respect of the majority of farmers in hawaii.

#makehurdheard

thank you,

vincent

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/11/2023 1:58:29 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jimmy Gomes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support GM501 for Sharon Hurd to become HDOA Chairman

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/11/2023 3:08:07 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Doorae Shin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Doorae Shin and I am in support of Sharon Hurd's nomination as the chairperson of DOH.

The Governor selected Sharon Hurd as Chair of the Department of Agriculture because Sharon fits this description of servant leadership and embraces the responsibility of personally advocating for Hawai'i's farmers and ranchers. While former leaders of DOA stayed in their offices, Sharon spent her fifteen years at DOA in the field working hand in hand with Hawai'i's food producers.

We need active leaders who understand the importance of a local and regenerative food system and one that takes us towards our goals of sustainability and food security.

Mahalo,
Doorae Shin

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

I submit this testimony in strong support of the confirmation of Ms. Sharon Hurd as Chairperson for the Department of Agriculture.

I had the opportunity to work with Sharon in the Market Development Branch at the Hawaii Department of Agriculture from 2018 through 2020 and again from 2022 through January 2023 in a temporary position supporting the grant programs. I have never met someone more passionate about helping Hawaii's farmers and ranchers as Sharon. Sharon is an outstanding leader who encourages her staff to do their best. She never hesitates to put in the long hours at work to ensure the job is done well and that Hawaii is bringing in as much agriculture grant money as possible. Sharon listens to her team and is receptive to the ideas of others. Her many years of experience and knowledge have definitely qualified her for this position.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Governor's Message 501.

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

I submit this testimony in strong support of the confirmation of Ms. Sharon Hurd as Chairperson for the Department of Agriculture.

I have had the privilege of working with Sharon in the Market Development Branch. She is very passionate about assisting the farmers and growers to succeed in their business ventures. Sharon is a tireless advocate of the DOA and often works long hours staying way past quitting time. Sharon is a great leader with many people in the Department seeking her knowledge of applying for grants. She leads by example which encourages staff to strive to do their best. Her experience and understanding of all aspects of Agriculture provides her with the perfect qualifications for this important position.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Governor's Message 501.

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/11/2023 8:36:14 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marci Clingan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Marci Clingan and I strongly support GM No. 501 for Ms. Sharon Hurd's nomination to serve as Chairperson for the Department of Agriculture.

I've known and had the pleasure to work with Ms. Hurd for over 9 years and I've seen how dedicated she is to the agriculture industry and our community. I believe Ms. Hurd will help advance agriculture in Hawaii in the next four years. I strongly support her nomination. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Marci Clingan

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/11/2023 8:39:06 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeri and Jason Moniz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

[COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT](#)

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

GM501

Sharon Hurd

Monday, March 13, 2023

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee,

We are Jeri and Jason Moniz, owners of KK Ranch in Hamakua on Hawaii Island and we support Nominee Sharon Hurd for consideration and confirmation as Chairperson, Department of Agriculture. Ms. Hurd has demonstrated a strong work ethic and willingness to learn, understand and support the livestock industries. In the short time that she has been in the position of the Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture she has made efforts to actually get out and meet producers and understand their issues, concerns and needs. We look forward to continuing to work with her and the HDOA staff that she will lead to promote Hawaii's agriculture. We strongly support the goal to keep agricultural land in production, and Ms. Hurd is very much in

line with that goal. She understands that the livestock industry in Hawaii is complex, and she has demonstrated her willingness and ability to learn so that she can better support the industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in her support.

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/11/2023 10:47:39 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jodi Yi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The nominee, Sharon Hurd, is intelligent, dedicated, and hard working. She has innovative ideas to move the department of agriculture forward. She is passionate about serving the community and increasing food production in the state.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/11/2023 10:55:49 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darren Park	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Gabbard and members of the AEN Committee,

Please accept this testimony in support of the confirmation of Sharon K. Hurd to chair the Department of Agriculture.

My name is Dr. Darren Park, I currently serve as the director of the Agricultural Diagnostic Service Center (ADSC) in the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I had the privilege to meet Sharon a little over three years ago. It was obviously apparent from our first meeting that Sharon was a true ambassador of agriculture. She wanted to make me immediately aware that an agricultural diagnostic laboratory is very important to the State of Hawai'i agricultural community at large and that I needed to bring this operation up to speed and get the job done. My respect for her has only grown over time through her unconditional support of the ADSC. She has taken the time to research and share funding sources along with agricultural initiatives that would benefit the ADSC. Sharon's actions, not rhetoric, speak for themselves, as this is the main reason she is highly respected by Hawai'i's diverse agricultural community. We need Sharon in these challenging times, a leader who is not afraid to roll up their sleeves and work right along your side.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in support of Sharon Hurd.

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/11/2023 11:27:18 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erik Horn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, and Senators DeCoite, Rhoads, and Awa:

I testify today in strong support of Sharon Hurd to chair the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Throughout my time involved in agriculture here in Hawaii, I have had the good fortune to interact with Sharon numerous times. Each time I have come away feeling respected as a farmer by someone who understands the challenges that I face to engage in agriculture in Hawaii. Each time, I have felt that I was listened to and that my feedback was considered. Even more importantly, in subsequent interactions, I have noticed that the feedback given by myself, and fellow farmers was actioned upon.

This is nothing to say of the uncommon diligence and care Ms. Hurd has displayed over the years in parsing and disseminating federal funding legislation and making sure that we, the ones with tools in the ground, are aware and able to get financial and technical assistance that we need. She understands that food security here in Hawaii only happens when we can pencil out the bottom line.

These qualities of diligence, listening, and reflection, and responsiveness make me sure that Sharon Hurd is the correct person to lead the Hawaii Department of Agriculture at this juncture. A department of agriculture lead by her will be one with its ear to the ground, dedicated to serving the needs of farmers and all other local food producers. It will be one that I have the utmost confidence in being responsive to our struggles. Lastly, I know it will be a fierce advocate in communicating to the consumer the immense value in having our food grown and value added products made here in Hawaii.

Because of this, I vociferously recommend that you unanimously support Governor Green's nomination of Sharon Hurd for Chair of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Erik Horn

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 7:14:54 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keith Neal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Sharon Hurd's strengths are many; she brings an excellent private-sector business sense, hands-on experience with federal, state, and private grant programs, and broad knowledge of challenges facing agriculture, livestock, fishery, and floriculture industries. Furthermore, as many of you can attest, Sharon provides excellence in customer service, always remembering that government works for the people. With an inclusive style, strong integrity, and impeccable ethics, Sharon is the right person to lead HDOA as we transition to diversified agriculture from the pineapple and sugarcane industries of the past.

Keith Neal

Waimea.

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 8:42:07 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chris Kobayashi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senator Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and members of the Agriculture and Environment Committee.

I am a kalo farmer and am fully aware of and Buy Local, Because it Matters!

Creating pathways and opportunities for more locally produced foods and goods is key to truly make our Hawaii more resilient and sustainable. Sharon Hurd has demonstrated in many ways, her abilities to finally move The Department of Agriculture in the right direction, with attainable actions and not just talk. Please support her and confirm her nomination. Mahalo nui.

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 9:21:37 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wayne Borden	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I wish to support the appointment of Sharon Hurd. I have heard presentations by her and her obvious positive nature to her work.

Mahalo, Wayne Borden.

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 9:27:20 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Helmut Klauer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly support confirmation of Sharon

M. Kathleen (Kay) Howe
maryk8@hawaii.edu 510 710-7310
March 13, 2023

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

The Honorable Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III
Vice Chairman
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hawaii State Senate, Room 202
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, and Senators DeCoite, Rhoads, and Awa:

Subject: Ms. Sharon Hurd, Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture

Thank you for the opportunity to express my strong support for Ms. Sharon Hurd to serve as Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA). I applaud Governor Josh Green's nomination of Sharon. He made an excellent choice. Sharon is the person needed at this time to address the constant arrival and establishment of invasive species that impact Hawai'i's ability to produce food.

My name is Kay Howe. For over 13 years I have been involved with the University of Hawaii, Hilo conducting rat lungworm research and providing community and K-12 education for rat lungworm disease prevention. Rat lungworm is not just a health problem, it is also an agricultural problem. While the rat lungworm has been documented in Hawai'i since the late 1950's, the invasive semi-slug *Parmarion martensi* is a relatively new arrival and is associated with the rise in serious cases of rat lungworm disease, particularly on but not limited to, Hawai'i Island. Despite the seriousness of this disease, which is most often contracted through the consumption of slug/snail-contaminated produce, the HDOA has paid scant attention to Hawai'i's food-related problem that can and has caused permanent disability and death.

I lived on Hawai'i island for 11 years and in that time saw the arrival of the varroa mite, the small hive beetle, the semi-slug, the little fire ant, the two-banded spittlebug, and the Queensland long-horned beetle. Now there is the avocado lacewing; what will arrive next? I support the appointment of Ms. Sharon Hurd to serve as Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture because I believe she understands that invasive species jeopardize Hawai'i's ability to be food secure and food safe. I believe she will push to see Hawai'i's Interagency Biosecurity Plan implemented. Preventing the arrival of new, invasive species, and figuring out how to control those established, is desperately needed. I add my voice to the voices of others in support of Ms. Sharon Hurd.

Me ke aloha pumehana,
Kay Howe
Kay Howe

CC: Governor Josh Green
Senator Lynn DeCoite
Senator Karl Rhoads
Senator Brenton Awa

Janel Yamamoto

janelyamamoto@gmail.com | 808-956-3530

March 12, 2023

The Honorable Mike Gabbard
Chairman
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hawai'i State Senate, Room 201
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III
Vice Chairman
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hawai'i State Senate, Room 202
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Subject: Ms. Sharon Hurd, Chairperson of the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, and Senators Awa, DeCoite, Rhoads:

Thank you for the opportunity to express my strong support for Ms. Sharon Hurd to serve as Chairperson of the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA).

The University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resource's GoFarm Hawai'i (GFH) program, previously the Agribusiness Incubator Program, has been providing business technical assistance throughout the state since 2003. The program has provided one-on-one business technical assistance for over 400 small and mid-sized businesses (including underserved and socially disadvantaged farmers) throughout the state. GFH also provides beginning farmer training and currently has six training sites throughout the state, all of which are in rural areas. The program has graduated over 500 individuals from its training program, many of which have started small farms or are working in the agricultural/food system.

As Director of the program, I have worked with Ms. Hurd on numerous projects since 2013. Through our work together, I have experienced the following:

- Ms. Hurd demonstrates a collaborative leadership style and engages many of the state's technical service providers in order to leverage resources, with the goal of fully supporting agricultural producers.
- As we work collaboratively with local service providers to compete for federal grant dollars, Sharon has been willing to be an active participant on grant proposals and has provided solid project ideas that can help our local producers find more market opportunity, increase their revenues, and make them more sustainable.
- Sharon has developed a strong local and national network and has positively represented HDOA. She understands the importance of federal agencies to Hawai'i agribusinesses and has relationships nationwide with agriculture associations. With this network and knowledge, she is often connecting organizations that can work together to strengthen the industry.

- She regularly engages directly with many local farmers (including our students and graduates) and understands the business needs and obstacles faced by Hawai'i's producers of all sizes. This is essential as the state works to scale our existing producers and develop the next generation.
- She is an expert on several USDA grant programs that can directly impact producers and increased food production. She has worked to make these accessible to businesses of all sizes.
- She is a thoughtful, clear, and articulate communicator.

Hawai'i's producers (both small and large) need a leader and advocate that will facilitate development and growth of the industry. They need someone who understands the value and unique needs of producers across the agricultural spectrum and can bring a fresh and creative perspective. An individual who is connected to the agricultural community and can work with producers, supporters, and government officials to achieve the Department's goals. I believe that Sharon can fill the Chairperson of the Hawai'i Board of Agriculture role well and fully support her nomination.

Mahalo,
Janel Yamamoto

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Janel Yamamoto', written in a cursive style.

Director, GoFarm Hawai'i
janelyamamoto@gmail.com
Personal Endorsement

TESTIMONY OF
KEITH A. REGAN

TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2023, 1:05 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224

GM501

Honorable Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment, I am providing testimony in support of GM501, the confirmation of Sharon Hurd as the Chairperson, Department of Agriculture.

I have known and worked with Ms. Hurd over the past 20 years in various capacities. She has the requisite experience, education, and skills to expertly and successfully lead the Department of Agriculture forward. Sharon's 15 years of service with the department has been a direct reflection of her passion and dedication to the mission of maintaining "the agricultural sector of Hawaii's economy, including livestock production, forestry, crops and aquaculture, in a strong and competitive condition" through innovation and her creative approach.

Ms. Hurd's strong marketing background will serve the department and the industry well as she pushes forward with new programs, new ways of thinking, and a strong commitment to elevating local agriculture as a critical component of our State's economic sustainability. Her work on the "Buy Hawaii, Give Aloha," and the "EAT LOCAL" campaigns are examples of her out-of-the-box approach that will help to rebuild the agriculture industry.

For these reasons, I humbly ask you to please support the confirmation of Sharon Hurd as the Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture.

Sincerely,

Keith A. Regan
Honolulu, Hawaii

The Senate
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Monday, March 13, 2023
1:05 PM Conference Room 224 and Videoconference

Testimony in SUPPORT of GM501

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and members of the committee,

My name is Kailee Lefebvre, I would like to express my SUPPORT for Sharon Hurd's consideration and confirmation as the Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture. Sharon Hurd was my internship supervisor at HDOA in the Market Development Branch in 2014 and have stayed in contact with her since. I believe she is knowledgeable and capable of performing her duties as Chairperson. She is attentive and receptive. I have seen her build and lead a confident and productive team in a positive environment. I think what sets Sharon apart from other leaders is her compassion for the people and projects she works with. She truly cares for others and will do what she can for everyone to reach success. Additionally, I believe Sharon's experience, respect, and trust from staff within the department makes her a great choice to lead HDOA. I hope that you will consider confirming her nomination. Thank you for your time and consideration. I'm available for questions at kailee.h.lefebvre@gmail.com.

Mahalo,

Kailee Lefebvre

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 10:02:00 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darcy Oishi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

I am writing as a private citizen in strong support of Governor Green's nomination of Sharon Hurd as Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture. Chairperson Hurd has a 15 year history with the Department of Agriculture. This has seen her develop important campaigns in the Agricultural Development Division including the "buy Local, it Matters" campaign and the "Seal of Quality" campaign. Chair Hurd has also led the Department on the awarding of funds through the Speciality Crop Program which has been influential in developing new crops for Hawaii to replace Big Ag. This includes crops like breadfruit and mamaki but the benefits of these programs are countless.

However, what makes Chair Hurd's nomination special is the unique position she is in because of her role in marketing: she has a high profile nationally. For most of her career with the Department, Chair Hurd has attended the National Association of Directors of State Agriculture and the Western Association of Directors of State Agriculture. This puts her in a unique position of having an **established** identity on a national scale. This presence has served the state well by helping to facilitate the addition of new export crops for Hawaii but she is already elevating issues Departmental staff have identified to push for national resolution. Chair Hurd understands that Hawaii, while one of the smallest states in the Union, packs a punch above the waist line. Our products, whether it's shrimp brood stock, queen bees, seed corn, potatoes, or our nursery stock, have tremendous impact on the national and international economy.

This big picture, however, is contextualized by her awareness through programs like the recent micro-grants program which awarded funds to backyard farmers, the full scale and challenge of modern 21st century agriculture in Hawaii. Sustainability is farm to table... whether the "farm" is the small little hydroponic kit in an apartment of a condominium to the largest farms in Hawaii.

The members of this committee knows me to speak my mind in honest and clear fashion. Sharon Hurd is an excellent choice to lead the Department of Agriculture.

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 10:02:04 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
penny levin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators;

I strongly support Sharon Hurd as Chair of the Department of Agriculture. As a farmer, I have greatly appreciated Sharon's presence at DOA over many years. She has always been supportive of local growers, is fair and transparent in her work, and understands the importance of local food security. Her years of experience in HDOA, not just in the marketing division, as well as her tireless efforts to connect local farmers and ranchers, and value-added food producers, to a range of markets is unparalleled experience that will benefit the whole of the department. She understands the immense challenges farmers face here in Hawaii to be successful and the imbalance created by imported produce. Just as important, she understands the challenges Hawaii faces with invasive species that severely impact Hawaii's ecosystem health and farm productivity and consistently pursues federal resources that benefit our islands. I can think of no better person for this position.

I encourage you to vote to appoint Sharon Hurd as Chair of HDOA.

Mahalo

Penny Levin, Maui

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 10:03:44 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carol Okada	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

I worked at the Hawaii Department of Agriculture, Plant Quarantine Branch from 1986 to 2019. I strongly support the confirmation of Sharon Hurd as Chairperson of Hawaii Board of Agriculture.

Sharon is extremely dedicated to helping the Department to get back on its feet and will continue to work tirelessly to support ALL of agriculture.

I have heard naysayers that question Sharon Hurd's ability and qualifications. But, whatever they think she lacks, she is eager to learn and resolve.

Sharon Hurd is refreshingly honest and sincere and truly cares. These qualities have been missing in so many of the past administrations that I have experienced.

Please support Sharon Hurd's confirmation. I believe she provides us with the best opportunity to rebuild the Department, thereby, improving its ability to work with the Agricultural community.

February 27, 2023,

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hawaii State Capitol

RE: *Letter of Support*-Ms. Sharon Hurd for Hawaii State Department of Agriculture Chairperson

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and members of the Senate Committee (Senator De Coite, Senator Rhoads, and Senator Awa) on Agriculture and Environment,

I am writing to express strong support of Ms. Sharon Hurd for the position of Chairperson with the Hawaii State Department of Agriculture (HDOA). My name is Ted Radovich and I have served for 17 years as an Extension Specialist, Researcher and Professor with the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (UH CTAHR). I currently serve as Coordinator of the CTAHR Sustainable and Organic Agriculture Program and am the Principal Investigator of the Sustainable and Organic Farming Systems laboratory. I work with farmers, extension agents and other agricultural professionals state-wide to understand and promote ecological farming practices that optimize crop yield and quality while reducing reliance on imported inputs.

Ms. Hurd has been a strong and effective advocate for sustainable agriculture in Hawaii for many years. In addition to her passion for helping Hawaii producers be successful, she will bring transparency and accountability to the HDOA, along with 15 years of institutional experience. She understands the state's dependence on the importation of food and understands the challenges in increasing state-wide food sustainability with a \$56 million dollar annual operating budget. Her background in fiscal, budget and federal grant administration will serve her well in growing our state's economy and reduce our reliance on imports.

I have observed first-hand Ms. Hurd's impact on Hawaii's agriculture as head of the HDOA Market Development Team and as acting Administrator for three HDOA branches from 2010-2020. Ms. Hurd's inclusive 'bring everyone to the table' nature will serve her well as HDOA's next Chairperson. Her passion and strength to secure supplemental funding will help seed the next generation of farmers in Hawaii.

I strongly support Ms. Sharon Hurd's appointment to the position of HDOA Chairperson so she can continue to serve and advance Hawaii's diversified agriculture industry.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ted Radovich', written in a cursive style.

Ted Radovich, Ph.D., Extension Specialist

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 10:24:24 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Bernstein	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard and Members of the AEN Committee;

I'm writing in **support** to confirm Sharon Hurd for the position of Chairperson for the Department of Agriculture. Though I do not know her personally, I've seen her testify on numerous bills and have been impressed with her expertise, professionalism, honesty, and team work. She seems always open to bring in others who may have more expertise. She takes responsibility when questioned.

Respectfully,

Paul Bernstein

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 10:26:19 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deborah Umiamaka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support GM501 and Ms. Sharon Hurd as Gov. Josh Green’s pick to lead the Department of Agriculture.

As pointed out in the Honolulu Civil Beat on Jan. 25, 2023, Ms. Hurd's "simple vision of “growing what we eat and eating what we grow” belies her understanding of the food system.

When Hurd talks about aquaculture, she considers the need for laboratories; talking about cattle and livestock, she discusses invasive species, irrigation, slaughterhouses and supply chains; when talking about making farms sustainable, she talks about the lack of housing, need for land, the need for interagency cooperation — especially with permitting issues.

The director alludes to bigger asks in the future, such as filling the gap left by the barrel tax with a “contingency fund,” along with other more ambitious requests". ...

Let's move forward with reaching Hawaii's food sustainability goals with Ms. Hurd confirmed as Chair for the Department of Agriculture.

Sincerely,

Deborah Umiamaka

Dave Kaulike Chun
DavidKChun9@gmail.com | 703-304-9209

March 13, 2023

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

The Honorable Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III
Vice Chairman
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hawaii State Senate, Room 202
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, and Senators DeCoite, Rhoads, and Awa:

Subject: Ms. Sharon Hurd, Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture

Thank you for the opportunity to express my robust support for Ms. Sharon Hurd to serve as Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA). I applaud Governor Josh Green's nomination of Sharon. He made an excellent choice. Sharon is the right person to build the foundation to diversify the economy through a vibrant agribusiness sector.

By way of introduction, my name is Dave Chun. I served as the lead agriculture policy advisor for two former Hawaii Members of Congress from 2013 through 2022 in Washington, D.C. Since meeting Sharon in 2013, we have engaged in countless hours brainstorming on how to help agribusinesses address the high cost of doing business in Hawaii. "Farmers, floriculturists, ranchers, and fishers are the backbone of rural Hawaii, and we need to help them grow and prosper," was one of Sharon's mantras. As HDOA's Business Development Program Manager, she'd often talk about empowering farmers with knowledge such as valuable federal funding opportunities. I'd listen intently and take notes.

Sharon has served as an incredible resource on "all things agriculture." For example, Sharon is a leading expert on implementing the USDA Micro-Grants for Food Security Program (MGFSP). The MGFSP aims to increase the quantity and quality of locally grown food in Hawaii, Alaska, and the U.S. Pacific Territories. Sharon shared her expertise by providing substantive information detailing MFGSP implementation challenges and solutions to overcome those barriers, which were included in a letter to the USDA from U.S. Senators.

In fact, Sharon has been in the mix on every federal policy I crafted to help Hawaii's specialty crop, livestock, aquaculture, and seafood industries; to promote nutrition and healthy diet programs; and to advance integrated pest management, invasive species control, food hubs, organic agriculture, soil health, water infrastructure, and tropical agriculture research, providing insight and/or referring experts to me to solve problems. Further, Sharon understands federal agencies' importance to Hawaii agribusinesses and has relationships nationwide with agriculture associations.

The Sharon I have gotten to know is an incredibly astute, knowledgeable, compassionate, focused, and multi-dimensional problem-solving-oriented individual. She is an inspiring leader who listens to customers to understand their issues fully. Sharon's strengths are her curiosity, inclusivity,

character, values, and integrity. Those are a few reasons why Sharon has *earned the respect and trust* of many agribusiness owners from Kauai to Hawaii Island.

Sharon fully understands the challenges faced by the spectrum of agribusinesses to address the costs of doing business in Hawaii. She thinks like an agribusiness stakeholder when discussing profit and loss, taxes, regulations, sales, marketing, advertising, value-added creation, and finance for Hawaii's food producers to build prospering companies. For Sharon, as agribusinesses prosper, so too will Hawaii's economy grow through the creation of new upstream and downstream business and job opportunities.

She understands the complex and intertwined profitability challenges faced by Hawaii agribusinesses as they manage energy, labor, real property, transportation, and input costs. Sharon understands Hawaii agribusiness's unique geographic challenges where transportation costs impact profit margins. She recognizes that to help agribusinesses prosper, the Hawaii Department of Agriculture is one part of the solution to help modernize rural infrastructures.

One of my first conversations with Sharon was regarding cashew nut trees as a value-added pathway to diversify Hawaii's commodity crop sector. I knew then that Sharon was a big thinker who could dissect bold ideas into the granular. Sharon explained that the cashew tree is drought-tolerant, adapts to marginal soils, has a spreading root system, and grows excellently in year-round warm climates like Hawaii. Thus, in her analysis, the cashew tree checked many boxes for Hawaii. Imagine rows of cashew trees hindering soil erosion from flowing onto coral reefs, such as on Molokai, while creating business and job opportunities! Sharon imagined and helped import cashew seedlings from India and dispersed them to farmers across Hawaii. Today, in a short seven years, there are more than 300 trees in various stages of production.

I fully trust Sharon's leadership, judgment, fairness, and business sense. She is a team player. Sharon is the right person to lead HDOA. I urge the Committee to unanimously support Ms. Sharon Hurd to serve as Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Thank you again for the opportunity to lend my voice in support of Sharon. I am happy to answer questions about why Sharon is the right person to lead the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

David K. Chun

David K. Chun

CC: Governor Josh Green
Lieutenant Governor Sylvia Luke
Senator Lynn DeCoite
Senator Karl Rhoads
Senator Brenton Awa

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 11:11:30 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane Ley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards and Committee Members,

It is my pleasure to offer my strong support of Sharon Hurd to serve as the Chairperson to the Hawai`i State Board of Agriculture.

Please allow me to digress to share my unique experiences that affords a unique lens in assessing Ms. Hurd’s leadership capabilities. As you may know, I have a decade of experience as a producer, a decade of service in agricultural and rural development non-profit advocacy and two decades in appointed executive leadership roles at the federal, county and state levels. My roles with the State have included serving as the Deputy to the Chairperson and as a member on the Board of Agriculture.

I strongly believe Sharon Hurd will make an exceptional Chairperson. She has the vision and demonstrated skills in leadership, collaboration, communication, performance and management both in government and in the private sector. Now more than ever, her leadership is essential to support and effectively advance Hawai`i’s agricultural sector.

Ms. Hurd has extremely strong ties and understanding of the agricultural sector. She regularly attends industry conferences, conventions and meetings in and out-of-state. Importantly, she stays throughout these gatherings to listen, learn and determine where government support can be leveraged to make an effective difference. She is good on her word to follow-up and has demonstrated the capacity to seek and deliver outside resources needed to address the needs identified by the agricultural sector.

Ms. Hurd’s communication skills are exceptional. She is inquisitive. She makes time to communicate and is timely, strategic and effective with her written and oral communications. With a proven track record across the sector and given the role of Chairperson, she has the capability to seize and focus the attention, understanding and support of the Legislature and Governor’s Office to support effective State goals and attainable outcomes benefiting the agricultural sector.

Importantly, her collaborative nature lends itself to bringing a diverse range of stakeholders together to work collectively on vision, goals and delivery of programs, services and more. The strong relationships she holds across the sector can help to bridge

existing gaps and lean into collective and effective directions for both the sector and government.

Ms. Hurd's strong work ethic and team management approach has empowered employees to drive to make a difference. This has proven to be effective in identifying needs, securing resources and the development and delivery of effective programs. Her track record includes seizing opportunities and the requisite effective response to economic downturns and emergencies. She has knowledge and experience working across government levels and departments, laws and regulations, and importantly, knows to ask first when not certain.

Ms. Hurd has the energy and passion Hawai'i's agriculture needs now. She has the skills and proven track record to adapt and scale up to provide the Department with vision, leadership, resources, management and accountability needed to take the Department and Hawai'i's agriculture to a high level of success.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Diane Ley

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 11:11:41 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Douglas L. Vincent	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please accept my support of Ms. Sharon Hurd as the nominee for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture leadership. She has tremendous experience working with Hawaii Farmers and Ranchers. Please support Governor's Green's nomination.

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 11:16:54 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alice Cadow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of Sharon Hurd's nomination. Her years of experience in the Department of Agriculture qualify her as an excellent choice for this position. Please approve her and support Hawaii's farmers and the state's agricultural needs. Thank you, Alice Cadow

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 11:36:10 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janet T Jewell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senators:

I am hereby writing to the Senators of the State of Hawaii because this Monday, March 13, the Hawaii State Senate will consider the confirmation of Ms. Sharon Hurd to serve as Chair of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA). I fully support Sharon Hurd serving as the HDOA Chair.

She has been highly effective in her most recent position as Business Development Program Manager of HDOA. In that role she has generated numerous email lists of grant opportunities and programs in support of Hawaii farmers that she sends out. She would be a huge asset and advocate of the farmers and farms of Hawaii and under her guidance they would flourish.

Sincerely, Janet T. Jewell, M.Ed.,

Elementary Art Teacher, Kealakehe El.

Kealakekua, Hawaii, Big Island

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 11:45:57 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I think that Sharon Hurd, with her deep understanding of the needs of Hawaii agriculture producers, funding sources, and with her ability to connect and communicate, is a great choice for Chair of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

GM-501

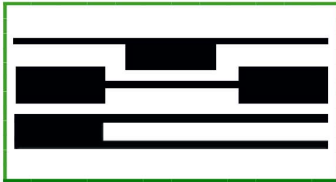
Submitted on: 3/12/2023 11:50:53 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sunny Savage	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support...



TEA HAWAII & COMPANY

March 12, 2023

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment (AEN)
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 201
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Gabbard and members of the AEN Committee,

Please accept this letter in support of the nomination of Sharon K. Hurd to Chair the Department of Agriculture.

My name is Eva Lee and I have been working in agriculture for the past twenty years. President of the Hawaii Tea Society with membership of farmers, distributors and educators globally that have represented Hawaii's tea industry domestically and abroad. My private business headquartered in Volcano Village Hawaii island, Tea Hawaii & Company is one of the largest Hawaii grown tea producers in the state. Both the tea organization and private sector have received invaluable guidance and direction from Sharon Hurd in working with HDOA and federal agencies, giving a voice on behalf of Tea, Hawaii's specialty crops and community outreach.

In addition to her knowledge and experience, Sharon also brings strong relationships with Hawaii's diverse agricultural community to the position of Chair. I and members of Hawaii's *Camellia sinensis* tea agriculture and community are very encouraged by the nomination of Sharon Hurd. We look forward to Hawaii State Department Of Agriculture furthering sustainable agriculture. The future be hopeful and constructive with Sharon K Hurd as Chair of HDOA.

Thank you for your consideration.

Aloha,

Eva J Lee

Eva Lee

PO Box 362 Volcano, Hawaii 96785
Tel/Fax (808) -967-7637 email teahawaii@gmail.com
www.teahawaii.com

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 12:01:41 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Trump	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a second-generation farmer in Hawai'i, I am concerned about the future of agriculture here in our State. That is why we need strong and proven leaders, like Sharon Hurd, to pave the way for the future of our food and agriculture systems. Sharon is a tireless advocate for farmers and has gone above and beyond to provide resources and support to Hawai'i agriculture organizations for years. Farmers, like myself, trust Sharon to lead the HDOA and are excited to work with her.

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 12:13:57 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deborah Ward	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Deborah Ward, and I worked at Hawaii Organic Farmers Assn (HOFA) between the years 2006 and 2012. I was Quality Control Officer, and oversaw the administration, in addition to writing and managing grants during that period. Ms Sharon Hurd and I worked closely to develop the HOFA website so that chefs and other buyers could identify growers that offered commodities for sale. Since then I have written or assisted in the writing and reporting of grants for the Hawaii Tropical Fruit Growers for several years. During this time, my associations with Ms Hurd have been cooperative and helpful, supportive of farmers, and otherwise excellent. I find Ms Hurd a welcome breath of fresh air particularly when it comes to supporting local farms and farmers. She makes every effort to communicate in a way that facilitates forward progress. I heartily and enthusiastically support her nomination and confirmation as Chair of Department of Agriculture. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in writing.

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 12:20:21 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sebastian Church	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This testimony is to support Sharon Hurd as Director for the Department of Agriculture.

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 12:24:10 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee,

I support the confirmation of Sharon Hurd as Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture.

I had the pleasure of working with Ms. Hurd in her capacity as Business Development Program Manager and found her to be pleasant, competent, and helpful in administering federal grants to increase the production of locally grown food.

In addition, since her nomination, Ms. Hurd has promised to support and take action on matters of utmost importance to local food production and local producers; for example, land transfers of critical large pasture leases from DLNR to the stability of leases under DOA, and extensions of agricultural park leases on neighbor islands for long-term, successful farmers who would otherwise not be able to continue farming their leased land. Ms. Hurd has shown strong interest and determination to support what is best for local commercial agriculture to remain viable while enabling and ensuring protection and conservation of our natural resources.

Thank you for your consideration of her confirmation.

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 12:25:51 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zoe Whitney	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please confirm Ms. Sharon Hurd as Chairperson of the HDOA. As someone who grew up on the slopes of Haleakalā Ranch, I recognize in Ms. Hurd the skillset and work ethic we need from our civil servants to transition our state's agriculture to one that is sustainable, resilient, and adaptive.

**Before the Senate Committee on
AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT**

**Monday, March 13, 2023
1:05 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of Committee,

I am writing to support the confirmation of Sharon Hurd as Chairperson for the Department of Agriculture. As program support for the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC), I have had the pleasure of meeting with Ms. Hurd on several occasions to discuss invasive species issues and priorities over the last few months. The Hawai'i Revised Statute 194 which establishes the Council designates the current chairs of the Departments of Agriculture and Land and Natural Resources to co-chair the Council. The Chairs of the Council play an important role in providing leadership on statewide policy direction, coordination, and planning for the prevention and management of harmful invasive species in Hawai'i.

Ms. Hurd has a unique insight into the Department of Agriculture, having worked there for the last 15 years gaining knowledge on the internal workings and challenges the Department faces. One of the ongoing challenges is increasing capacity for vital programs the Department provides for preventing new pest incursions, developing new biological control agents for widespread weeds, and controlling existing pest populations. These programs need additional resources and Ms. Hurd's administrative experience with procurement, grant administration and her ability to build successful programs and campaigns will be a critical asset to meeting this challenge.

In our recent meetings discussing the Council, Ms. Hurd has shown a willingness to learn and work toward productive solutions to address Hawaii's most pressing invasive species issues with the current nominee for Chair of DLNR and HISC co-chair, Dawn Chang. I see both nominees as great leaders for our Council. Invasive species issues are complex and can sometimes be overwhelming, but Ms. Hurd has a history of problem-solving for challenging issues whether it be figuring out how to increase support for farmers or handling logistics for a large airline company. I am confident that Ms. Hurd can meet the challenges of this position and as co-Chair of the HISC.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide my support for Sharon Hurd as Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo,

Chelsea Arnott
Program Support
Hawai'i Invasive Species Council

Testimony of
CHRIS J. SADAYASU
to the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Monday, March 13, 2023
1:05 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In consideration of
GM 501

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee.

I support the appointment of Sharon Hurd to serve as the Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture.

With over fifteen years with the Department, Ms. Hurd has been enhancing Hawai'i's competitiveness in agriculture and has experience in overseeing the Branch budget as the Business Development Program Manager. She also served as Acting Administrator of multiple branches within the Agricultural Development Division.

I respectfully ask for Ms. Hurd's confirmation as the Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture. I look forward to collaborating with her to fulfill our departments' respective missions.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Hanalee Lee Loy
hanaleeleoy@gmail.com | 808-443-9951

March 13, 2023

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

The Honorable Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III
Vice Chairman
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hawaii State Senate, Room 202
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, and Senators DeCoite, Rhoads, and Awa:

Subject: Ms. Sharon Hurd, Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide my strong support for the confirmation of Ms. Sharon Hurd to serve as the Hawaii Department of Agriculture Chair. My name is Hanalē Lee Loy of Hawai'i Island. I formerly served as the district-based agriculture lead for Congressman Kaiali'i Kahele.

During my tenure, I got to know Sharon through feedback from agribusiness constituents. From Kaua'i Island to Hawai'i Island, Sharon's name frequently came up during discussions as a problem-solver to challenges faced by agriculture producers. I can confidently state that Sharon won many farmers' respect because of her dedication to helping them grow and prosper.

I also know firsthand about Sharon's help with federal policy providing feedback on a spectrum of issues facing Hawai'i food producers. Her leadership style of inclusivity, values, integrity, ethics, business acumen, and knowledge of federal and state grants deeply impressed me.

Again, mahalo for the opportunity to express my support for confirming Ms. Sharon Hurd as Chair of the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Hanalē Lee Loy

CC: Governor Josh Green
Senator Lynn DeCoite
Senator Karl Rhoads
Senator Brenton Awa

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 1:01:29 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jayson Watts	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good afternoon, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment.

I write to express my support for Sharon Hurd's appointment and confirmation as the Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Aloha,

Jayson Watts

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 1:56:40 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lane Tsuchiyama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Honorable Michael Gabbard and Members of the Senate Agriculture and Environment Committee:

I write to express my **STRONG SUPPORT** for Ms. Sharon Hurd as Chairperson of the State of Hawai'i Board of Agriculture ("BOA") and director of the Department of Agriculture ("DOA"). As demonstrated by her resume and past experience within the DOA, Ms. Hurd understands the challenges and opportunities in the State's agriculture industry exceedingly well. As someone who has worked in the State Government sector for a number of years now, albeit not in the DOA, Ms. Hurd has always shared her knowledge with me on the receipt and administration of Federal grants freely, and that knowledge will serve the State well as it seeks to improve the competitive capability of Hawai'i's agricultural industry in the future.

With a large amount of land at the State's disposal, I am sure Ms. Hurd will find an effective way to support business owners in the State's agriculture industry better and I encourage the Senate Agriculture and Environment Committee ("AEN") to advise and consent to her nomination, Governor's Message ("GM") No. 501, through its decision making at this present, or future, AEN hearing.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the nomination of Ms. Hurd through GM No. 501. I respectfully ask that the members of the Senate AEN find and conclude that Ms. Hurd will be an excellent candidate to lead the BOA and DOA for the duration of Governor Green's term in office.

Thank you.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

**Relating to the Confirmation of
Sharon K. Hurd as Chairperson of the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture**

State Capitol Conference Room 224

March 13, 2023

1:05 P.M.

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, and Senators DeCoite, Rhoads, and Awa:

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide strong support for the confirmation of Ms. Sharon K. Hurd to serve as the Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. My name is Michelle Spalding Matson, and I am a longtime supporter of Hawai'i's sustainable farming community.

My reasons for supporting Sharon Hurd are mirrored by many who have submitted endorsing testimonies, and this echo of support emphasizes Sharon's following qualifications and attributes:

- ◇ Possesses high regard for the Hawai'i farming community.
- ◇ Understands and assists small farmers in addressing energy, real property, transportation labor, taxes, input costs, and regulations.
- ◇ Has comprehensive knowledge of state and federal agricultural policies, regulations and administration.
- ◇ Is highly knowledgeable about federal and state agricultural grant opportunities.
- ◇ Possesses impeccable integrity, is a leader that values teamwork and collaborative problem solving, has a strong background in marketing, and provides excellent customer service.

Sharon has well-represented Hawai'i's Department of Agriculture by consistently and conscientiously communicating with Hawai'i's farming community regarding important opportunities and events relating to the unique needs of Hawai'i agriculture.

Hawai'i urgently needs a self-sustainable future with increased food security and diversified agriculture. And with the Department of Agriculture's "Buy Local, It Matters" campaign encouraging our residents to support Hawaii's farming community, perhaps one day we will have a Farmer's Market hub at Kewalo Basin to receive Hawai'i-grown agricultural products transported locally and shipped expeditiously inter-island.

Therefore I respectfully offer my strong support of Sharon K. Hurd as Chairperson of the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo nui loa,

Michelle Spalding Matson

RJ Ranch
46-3910 Ola Mamalahoa Hwy
Honokaa,Hawaii 96727

GM501
Sharon Hurd

March 13, 2023

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee,

I support GM501 for consideration and confirmation of Sharon Hurd as
Chairperson Department of Agriculture.

Ms Hurd understands the needs of Agriculture in Hawaii.
She is willing to listen and learn what is needed to keep
Agriculture safe and protected. As we move forward into
the future we will need someone who cares, is strong,
willing to visit with ranchers and farmers and find out their
needs to stay productive.

I believe Ms Hurd is the person.

Thank you for time
Respectfully,

Jill Mattos
RJ Ranch

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 5:19:34 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Debbie Millikan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need Sharon Hurd as Chair of DOA, she supports Farm to School and believes in food sustainability. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 6:43:42 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha. I own 14 acres farmland north of Hilo near Pepe'ekeo and I support Sharon Hurd she's great. Mahalo

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 9:47:59 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please approve the appointment of Sharon Hurd as the Chairperson for the Department of Agriculture.

She is highly qualified and I support her nomination,

Mahalo,

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 11:32:49 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Arinaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

I fully support the confirmation of Sharon Hurd as Chairperson of the Dept. of Agriculture. Sharon has been working on the frontlines of local agriculture for many years and thus has an intimate knowledge of the issues confronting agriculture in Hawaii, as well as the potential solutions needed to move us forward. In all my interactions with her, she has been friendly, courteous, knowledgeable, and customer-oriented. As a long-time frontline employee within HDOA, she also knows all the players in the sector.

I am confident that Sharon will perform well in this position and be a major asset to this state.

Sincerely,

Paul Arinaga

Former farmers cooperative GM and CSA manager

Currently, Executive Director of Grow Good Hawaii (promoting urban agroecology)

Dave Elliott
dave.elliott@oahurcd.org | 808 354 1567

March 13, 2023

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

The Honorable Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III
Vice Chairman
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hawaii State Senate, Room 202
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, and Senators DeCoite, Rhoads, and Awa:

Subject: Ms. Sharon Hurd, Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture

Thank you for the opportunity to express my strong and enthusiastic support for Sharon Hurd to serve as Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture. As Executive Director of Oahu RC&D since 2019, I have had the opportunity to work closely with Sharon Hurd on multiple initiatives and witness first-hand Sharon's many strengths; she brings an excellent private-sector business sense, hands-on experience with federal, state, and private grant programs, and broad knowledge of challenges facing agriculture, livestock, fishery, and floriculture industries in Hawai'i. Furthermore, Sharon provides excellence in her commitment to constituents and stakeholders, always remembering that government works for the people. With an inclusive style, strong integrity, and impeccable ethics, Sharon is the right person to lead HDOA for the future.

I fully trust Sharon's leadership, judgment, and fairness. She is a team player, but most importantly she brings the necessary spark and passion to improve the DOA and grow its contributions for the benefit of Hawaii's agricultural sector. Sharon is the right person to lead HDOA. I urge the Committee to unanimously support Ms. Sharon Hurd to serve as Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Thank you again for the opportunity to lend my voice in support of Sharon.

‘O au iho nō me ka ‘oia‘i‘o,



Dave Elliott

CC: Governor Josh Green
Senator Lynn DeCoite
Senator Karl Rhoads
Senator Brenton Awa

Akiko White

akiko@alohabites.com | 210-415-1785

March 13, 2023

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

The Honorable Herbert M. “Tim” Richards, III
Vice Chairman
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hawaii State Senate, Room 202
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, and Senators DeCoite, Rhoads, and Awa:

Subject: Ms. Sharon Hurd, Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture

I support Ms. Sharon Hurd to serve as Chair of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. She has been instrumental in making sure those of us who are supporting local agriculture receive any information pertaining to grants and other information regarding sustainable agriculture. Akiko White, Owner and founder of Aloha Bites.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Signature
Akiko White
Aloha Bites

CC: Governor Josh Green
Senator Lynn DeCoite
Senator Karl Rhoads
Senator Brenton Awa

In addition to the Hawaii State Legislature link for submitting testimony at <https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/account/login.aspx?return=/account/submittestimony.aspx>, included are email addresses for the Governor and Members of the Committee.

Contact emails

Governor Josh Green c/o Brooke Wilson – Brooke.Wilson@hawaii.gov

Senator Mike Gabbard: sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov

Senator Tim Richards: senrichards@capitol.hawaii.gov

Senator Lynn DeCoite: sendecoite@capitol.hawaii.gov

Senator Karl Rhoads: senrhoads@capitol.hawaii.gov

Senator Brenton Awa: senawa@capitol.hawaii.gov

Also, please send your testimony to your State Senator and those Senators with whom you have relationships.

Rae Gee
Email: raegee2012@gmail.com
March 12, 2023

The Honorable Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
and Committee Members
Committee on Agriculture and the Environment
The Senate
Hawaii State Legislature
State Capitol Room 224 and Videoconference
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: Testimony for the Governor's Message No. 501, Confirmation of the Gubernatorial Nominee, Sharon Hurd, Chairperson, Department of Agriculture, for a term to expire on December 31, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Gabbard and Committee Members:

My name is Rae Gee, and I am a civil service employee from the State Department of Agriculture, submitting testimony in support of Ms. Sharon Hurd as the Gubernatorial nominee submitted for consideration and confirmation as the Chairperson, of the Department of Agriculture. (HDOA). My apologies for not being present at the meeting to provide my testimony.

I'm a Planner V in the Chairpersons Office and Ms. Hurd is my boss. As a new employee and only been on the job for a month, I know from my observations that Ms. Hurd has the qualifications and personality for the position to be the confirmed Chairperson for the HDOA. I humbly ask that you confirm her for the position.

Ms. Hurd is a very dedicated, devoted and qualified for the position. Her knowledge is from her sixteen years of experience with the mission to facilitate and develop the agricultural industry through the expansion of new and existing markets, as the former Business Development Branch Manager of the HDOA's Market Development Branch.

The Branch Manager's position exemplifies though her marketing expertise, the arial perspective and birds-eye view of the agricultural industry and how HDOA can assist Hawaii's farmers, the foundation of the agricultural industry. The Branch also administers the various agricultural grant programs, which provides her with the financial background and expertise in working with the HDOA Divisions to develop the yearly capital and operating budgets, a key requirement for the position.

She is approachable and friendly, always saying hello when passing by my cubicle and checking on my progress, a key requirement for the position and as a leader of HDOA, when dealing with employees and with assisting Hawaii's farmers and others in the Agriculture Industry. Ms. Hurd also worked with passengers and cargo for 25 years in Delta Airlines' Marketing Department. She has an open-door policy and collaborative nature with the staff and divisions and a key trait for a leader to work with agricultural industry partners, the University of Hawaii, Federal, State, City, business and community members. These are the qualities, in my opinion, that make a great leader for a government organization.

I humbly ask you to confirm Ms. Hurd as HDOA Chairperson. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide my testimony.

Sincerely,

Signed,
Rae Gee

GM-501

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 7:18:34 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ken Kajihara	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Greetings Chair Gabbard and members of the Agriculture and Environment Committee,

I am a retired agriculture teacher and former Department of Education State Program Manager for Agriculture Education and the Future Farmers of America (FFA) career and technical student organization.

I met Sharon Hurd over eight years ago when she reached out to the FFA to involve our state officers in a national conference for state directors of agriculture. This gave our student leaders an opportunity to learn first-hand about local and national agricultural challenges and opportunities. What struck me were the clarity and timeliness of her communications, the superbly organized conference pre-program and program activities, and the way she engendered trust and instilled confidence in our students. She took a personal interest in our young leaders.

Since then, I have observed her to consistently go out of her way to support agriculture education and the FFA. The public was able to see and appreciate her leadership during the past two years when she mobilized staff to inform and educate applicants for USDA micro-grants through very effective online video presentations. When coupled with her grant opportunities listserv, she has demonstrated a rare ability to use inter-agency relationships and social media and technology to expand the reach of the Department of Agriculture.

She clearly understands the challenges and opportunities facing our state, and in Sharon Hurd we have a highly skilled and transformative leader whose system knowledge of the department and of Hawaii's agriculture landscape is complete.

Please support her confirmation as Director of our State Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ken Kajihara

Agriculture Education and FFA Volunteer

4032 Kaimuki Avenue

Honolulu, HI 96816