

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DEXTER KISHIDA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2024
1:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224

GOVERNORS MESSAGE NO. 593

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

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

It is with great confidence that I submit testimony in strong support of Gubernatorial Nominee, Dexter Kishida, for the position of Deputy to the Chairperson, Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA). This confidence is the result of working with Dexter since 2009, when he was the recently hired School Food Coordinator at the Kokua Hawaii Foundation (KHF) and HDOA had a federally funded contract with KHF that was in jeopardy because the Project Manager was not able to complete the project. Dexter stepped in and provided the details needed to close the project! He is a problem resolver.

I have had the opportunity to interact with Dexter over the years, always buoyed by his pleasant demeanor during conversations, even when the subject matter was unpleasant or difficult, Dexter engaged and contributed with professionalism. We would meet at conferences, workshops, agricultural events, when he was with the Hawaii Department of Education (DOE) and his depth of knowledge about the supply chain for



Farm to School and about the federal programs that supported that supply chain was noted by many, me included. He is smart and fair.

While he was with the City and County of Honolulu (C&C), we would run into each other at the Wednesday Farmers Market at the Neal Blaisdell Center, where he would introduce co-workers/interns to the farmers' booths, sharing information about agriculture. He volunteered to help the Hawaii Farm Bureau's "Farm to Car" program during the pandemic, while the Farmers' Markets were closed. He is a team player and contributor.

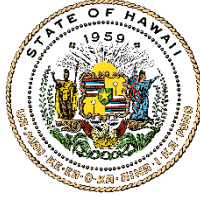
Then, on July 28, 2023, after the incumbent resigned, Dexter joined the HDOA as the Plant Industry Administrator, serving until September 8, 2023, when a few days later, on September 11th, he was selected to serve as the Deputy Director, a position for which he is requesting confirmation. As the Plant Industry Administrator for 43 days, Dexter was such a quick study, that today, he can discuss complicated Pesticide treatments for invasive species referring to multi-syllabic chemicals and their complex protocols for use. As Deputy for seven months, he brought with him his experience and rolodex of contacts from the DOE and C&C. The Department has benefited from Dexter Kishida as Deputy and his impressive reputation from previous years. He is committed, qualified, well-respected and the right person for the position.

When HDOA had a looming deadline, a last-minute request, a high-visibility reported pest detection, a need to be two places at once, a ppt to prepare for a "tomorrow" briefing – JUST ADD DEXTER – and the task is done!

While confident that this request to confirm Dexter Kishida as the Deputy to the Chair will strengthen the Department, it is with humility that I thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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

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

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY

DEAN D. UYENO
ACTING 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

Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on
AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

Wednesday, March 6, 2024
1:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 224 and Via Videoconference

In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 593

Governor's Message 593 submits for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, Dexter Kishida, for a term to expire December 31, 2026. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports this nomination.**

The Department leadership and staff have worked closely with Mr. Kishida on several shared issues since he started at the Department of Agriculture (DOA) in 2023 as the Acting Plant Industry Administrator and then moved into the interim DOA Deputy role. Mr. Kishida is knowledgeable and well-respected in the agricultural community from his previous work on food security with the City and County of Honolulu. He has proven to be a collaborative, thoughtful, and proactive partner working to identify problem areas and find solutions.

Mr. Kishida has been critical to moving important invasive species priorities forward, like the amendments to Hawaii Administrative Rules Chapter 4-72 that would provide greater abilities for DOA to prevent and manage the movement of pests across the state. He started at DOA when communities were frustrated by the spread of invasive species like little fire ants and coqui frogs in their neighborhoods and the lack of action. He immediately started spending evenings and weekends attending community events on the Windward side of O'ahu to listen and address concerns despite only being at DOA for a few weeks. He continues to be a proactive partner working with the various agencies and organizations involved in invasive species response efforts. He is the alternate for DOA on the Hawaii Invasive Species Council.

We look forward to continuing to work with Mr. Kishida and the department. We appreciate the opportunity to testify to Mr. Kishida's nomination.

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 LIMAHANA

March 6, 2024

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: Wednesday, March 6, 2024

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 224 & Videoconference, State Capitol

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

Re: G.M. 593, Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, DEXTER KISHIDA, for a term to expire 12-31-2026.

The Department of Labor and Industrial Relations **strongly supports** the confirmation of Dexter Kishida as Deputy Chairperson to the Department of Agriculture.

Since 2009, Mr. Kishida has earned a respectable reputation to bring our farms to our table. His career began by feeding our students nutritious and healthy meals at the Department of Education while boosting local agriculture and production.

Mr. Kishida understands the importance of food security and sustainability. His ability to bring people together and securing millions of dollars in grants through coordination and management of locally sourced food products demonstrates he is the right person for this job to make a real food system a success story of "Aina Pono" or the right way of eating.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Governor's Message 593.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



WENDY L. GADY
Executive Director

STATE OF HAWAII
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

235 S. Beretania Street, Room 205
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: (808) 586-0186 Fax: (808) 586-0189

TESTIMONY OF WENDY L. GADY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND
ENVIRONMENT

Wednesday, March 6, 2024
1:00 PM
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

**GM 593 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy to
the Chairperson, Department of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee,
DEXTER KISHIDA, for a term to expire 12-31-2026**

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

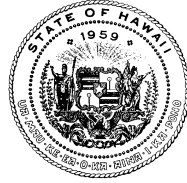
The Agribusiness Development Corporation (“ADC”) **supports** GM593,
relating to the consideration and confirmation of Mr. Dexter Kishida’s
appointment as Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture
(HDOA).

I have had the opportunity to observe Dexter both inside and outside of
the Legislative Session, and his dedication to the Hawaii producer’s success is
obvious. Doubling Hawaii’s local food production is significant to all of Hawaii,
and we need individuals with Dexter’s passion and attention to detail to make this
goal. In observing Dexter during session testimony, he is organized, on time,
prepared to testify and regularly has answers for the legislators.

ADC believes Mr. Kishida's experience will be instrumental in helping lead HDOA. Furthermore, ADC is confident Mr. Kishida has the knowledge and skills required to serve as Deputy to the Chairperson and we respectfully ask for your consideration and support of his nomination.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII



KENNETH S. FINK, M.D., M.G.A., M.P.H.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

Testimony in SUPPORT of GM593
Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson,
Department of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, DEXTER KISHIDA, for a term to
expire 12-31-2026.

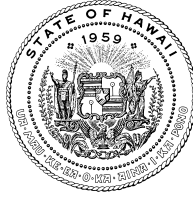
SEN. MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Hearing Date: March 6, 2024

Room Number: 224

- 1 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports the nomination of Mr.
- 2 Dexter Kishida for Deputy Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture.
- 3 Mr. Kishida's professional history in local food production and sustainability demonstrates an
- 4 emphasis on cross-sector impact. His work goes beyond a robust agricultural industry, and
- 5 makes connections in health and nutrition, education and readiness to learn, and workforce
- 6 development.
- 7 A healthy population not only needs nutrition, but the cooperation of all sectors in the public and
- 8 private spaces to work together to support "health in all policies." Mr. Kishida will be a critical
- 9 ally in keeping Hawaii healthy and assuring equity and opportunity for residents.
- 10 DOH urges the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment to unanimously support Mr.
- 11 Kishida's nomination.

12



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

Wednesday, March 6, 2024
1:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 224, and Videoconference

In consideration of
Governor's Message No. 593

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. 593, appointment of Dexter Kishida to serve as Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Agriculture.

As the first Food Security and Sustainability Program Manager with the City and County of Honolulu, Dexter worked to secure millions of dollars in federal, city, and philanthropic resources. A significant part of Dexter's work centered on creating short-, mid-, and long-term plans and systems to grow local food production and leveraging over \$30,000,000 in federal, state, city, and private capital in 2.5 years.

For eight years, Dexter served as the Farm to School Coordinator and School Food Services Supervisor for the Department of Education (DOE), where he was responsible for supervising 220 staff and 46 public schools on Oahu and Kauai. During his years with the DOE, Dexter established a solid working relationship with local farmers, ranchers, food businesses, schools, legislators, and other sectors of the community to provide students with access to nutritious foods. He also served as School Food Coordinator of Kokua Hawaii Foundation from 2009 to 2012.

Dexter's work accomplishments include securing the following funds, including: \$20,000,000 in Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act funding; \$8,000,000

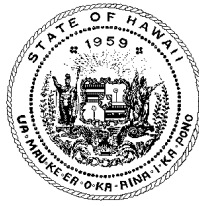
Testimony of Office of the Governor
Governor's Message No. 593
March 6, 2024
Page 2

in American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA)-funded food system grants; and \$3,000,000 in ARPA-funded agriculture level 1 grants. These past work experiences and accomplishments have proven essential in Dexter serving as Acting Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Agriculture, from 2023.

Lastly, Dexter's years of service with the State, county, and non-profit sector have enabled him to garner solid leadership, collaboration, and decision-making skills to be part of the leadership at the Department of Agriculture. I am confident that Dexter Kishida's commitment to the job and his ability and experiences to carry out the duties of the position of Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Agriculture, will enable him to serve the State, agricultural sector, and community well.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII
**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
AND REHABILITATION**
*Ka 'Oihana Ho'omalua Kalaima
a Ho'oponopono Ola*
1177 Alakea Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

TOMMY JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

Melanie Martin
Deputy Director
Administration

Pamela J. Sturz
Deputy Director
Correctional Institutions

Sanna Muñoz
Deputy Director
Rehabilitation Services
and
Programs

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR MESSAGE NO. 593
RELATING TO THE NOMINATION OF DEXTER KISHIDA
TO BE THE DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRPERSON,
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

By

Tommy Johnson, Director

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

Wednesday, March 6, 2024; 1:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 224 & Via Video Conference

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

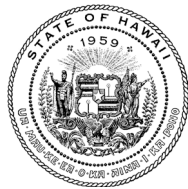
I submit testimony in support of the nomination and confirmation of Dexter Kishida as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture for a term to expire on December 7, 2026. Mr. Kishida has a diverse and wide-reaching work background needed for this position.

Mr. Kishida's work experience with the Department of Education (DOE) as their Farm to School Coordinator and Food Services Supervisor coupled with his work with the City and County of Honolulu's Food Security and Sustainability Program will assist him and the Department of Agriculture as the Deputy to the Chairperson of that agency.

I strongly urge the committee to recommend advice and consent for this highly qualified nominee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the Governor's Message No. 593 and Mr. Kishida.

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
KRISTEN M.R. SAKAMOTO, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF TAXATION

TESTIMONY ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

G.M. 593, Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, DEXTER KISHIDA, for a term to expire 12-31-2026

BEFORE THE:

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

DATE: Wednesday, March 6, 2024

TIME: 1:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 224

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of the confirmation of Dexter Kishida as Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Kishida previously served as the Program Manager for the Food Security and Sustainability Program at the City and County of Honolulu, where he created and implemented programs to grow local food production, assisted with agriculture and local food manufacturing business development, and developed the City's agriculture land portfolio. Mr. Kishida also served as Farm to School Coordinator for the Department of Education, where he created a long-term farm-to-school plan and conducted a statewide technology upgrade for the School Nutrition Enterprise System.

I am confident that Mr. Kishida has the knowledge, experience, and leadership skills to serve as Deputy to the Chairperson. I therefore urge the Committee to confirm Mr. Kishida's appointment. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Governor's Message 593.



JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT 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. 593

March 6, 2024
1:00 p.m.
Room 224 & Videoconference

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

Chair Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support the appointment of Dexter Kishida to the position of deputy to the chairperson of the Department of Agriculture. I am working with Dexter Kishida in my professional capacity as Deputy Director of Finance.

I have had the opportunity to work with Mr. Kishida on several initiatives related to increasing the production of local food, maximizing our federal funds into the state, and other priorities on behalf of Governor Green's administration.

I was immediately impressed by Mr. Kishida's willingness to take initiative, especially in applying for congressional earmarks and finding other innovative ways to bring more funding into the department.

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.

Mr. Kishida 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.

Mr. Kishida has been serving as the deputy to the chairperson at the Department of Agriculture since August 2023. Prior to that, he has experience working at the City and County of Honolulu as the food security and sustainability program manager. His work experience will benefit the department and the State; therefore, I support his confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

JOSH GREEN
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



KENNETH S. HARA
MAJOR GENERAL
ADJUTANT GENERAL
KA 'AKUKANA KENELALA

STEPHEN F. LOGAN
BRIGADIER GENERAL
DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL
KA HOPE 'AKUKANA KENELALA

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
KA 'OIHANA PILI KAUA
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816-4495

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 593,
RELATING TO GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE DEXTER KISHIDA

PRESENTATION TO
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

BY
BRIGADIER GENERAL STEPHEN F. LOGAN
DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL

MARCH 4, 2024

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

I am Brigadier General Stephen Logan, Deputy Adjutant General, Department of Defense, State of Hawaii. I respectfully submit testimony in **SUPPORT of GM593**, relating to the Gubernatorial Nomination of Mr. Dexter Kishida as Deputy Director, Department of Agriculture (HDOA).

As a fellow deputy cabinet member, Mr. Kishida has demonstrated leadership and partnership in working with local communities, ranchers, and food providers to leverage federal funding to support local businesses and entrepreneurs. He has been a reliable teammate and I believe he will continue to serve the people of Hawaii with integrity and thoughtfulness.

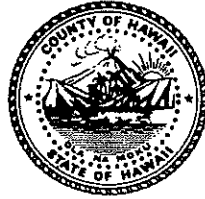
Mr. Kishida's accomplishments as a public servant complement his extensive experience in the food security and sustainability sector that includes service with the Department of Education focused on providing nutritional products for Hawaii's keiki.

I would be honored to continue to serve with Mr. Kishida. His track record and results at the most senior levels speak for themselves, and I am confident he will be a pillar to help guide and lead our state into the future.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify and for your consideration.

BG Stephen F. Logan: stephen.f.logan@hawaii.gov; 808-672-1003.

Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor



Douglass S. Adams
Director

Frecia Cevallos
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 4, 2024

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi, Senate President,
and Members of the Senate
Thirty-Second State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Support for Governor's Message 593--Dexter Kishida's Nomination
for Deputy to the Chairperson of the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture

Dear Senate President Kouchi and Members of the Senate:

My name is Glenn Sako, Economic Development Specialist in Agriculture for the Department of Research and Development, County of Hawai'i. I am submitting this letter for full support of Dexter Kishida's nomination to serve as Deputy to the Chairperson of the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture.

Our department's objectives are to support our agricultural producers and industries through research, development, and education that improves production, quality, and producer viability, increase consumption of agricultural and value-added products, reduce the negative impact of invasive species, and support the facilitation and collaboration of food system and local agricultural partners and networks.

I first met Dexter when he was a School Food Service Supervisor promoting the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture's program of buying local agricultural products for school lunches. We discussed how this program would support the local producers to sell their products locally, get a better price and provide better quality food products to Hawai'i's students. He was passionate and enthusiastic about how this program would support the producers, the agricultural industry, and the keiki in school.

As an Acting Deputy, Dexter has reached out to the counties to hold quarterly informational meetings to allow an exchange of information and to hear our concerns. He has responded to my requests for information, and this has made me look forward to these regular meetings.

I have faith that Dexter believes in the programs of the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture and fully supports Chairperson Hurd's agenda. His positive attitude and support for Hawai'i's agricultural programs have convinced me that he will be a valuable asset to the department.

I volunteered to chair the Meat Processing Task Force, Act 54, SLH 2023, to prepare a comprehensive study on seeking donations of wild game to be processed and distributed to the under-resourced communities and homeless. I feel the positive energy to move Hawai'i's agricultural industries forward and I want to be part of the movement. Dexter has supported my chairmanship and the efforts of the Task Force.

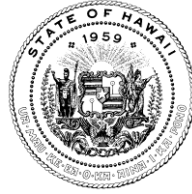
I am comfortable working with Dexter Kishida and look forward to Hawai'i County's agricultural producers and food systems benefiting from his efforts to support the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture's programs, new initiatives, and to improve Hawai'i's agricultural foundation.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my full support for Dexter Kishida's nomination to serve as Deputy to the Chairperson of the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Glenn T. Sako". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Glenn T. Sako
Department of Research and Development
County of Hawai'i



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
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cca.hawaii.gov

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

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA

NADINE Y. ANDO
DIRECTOR | KA LUNA HO'OKELE

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

**Testimony of
NADINE Y. ANDO
Director for the
Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs**

**Before the
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Wednesday, March 6, 2024
1:00 PM
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference**

**TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 593 RELATING TO
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE DEXTER KISHIDA, DEPUTY
TO THE CHAIRPERSON, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

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

My name is Nadine Ando and I am the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and I support the confirmation of Dexter Kishida to the position of Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Kishida has demonstrated exceptional dedication to strengthening our local food system, securing millions in Federal, City, and philanthropic resources. His initiatives, such as the Oahu Good Food Program and the Opportunity Youth Agriculture Workforce Development, have significantly increased local food production and addressed crucial issues, including justice-involved youth.

Mr. Kishida's achievements include the creation of a network of small animal processing facilities and his emphasis on community engagement with a focus on equity. His prior role at the Hawaii Department of Education showcased his ability to

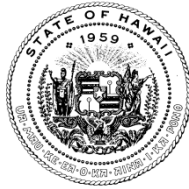
manage large-scale projects, with the Harvest of the Month program reaching 100,000 students statewide.

Mr. Kishida's involvement in professional development initiatives, such as the Hawaii Investment Ready Food System Cohort, the Hawaii Institutional Purchasing Hui, and the Rockefeller City Food Systems Cohort, reflects his commitment to the broader discussion on food systems and institutional purchasing.

In conclusion, Dexter Kishida's exceptional leadership, strategic thinking, and dedication to advancing sustainable food systems make him an ideal candidate for this crucial role. I support his confirmation and believe that his continued contributions will significantly benefit the Department of Agriculture and our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'AINA



EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

Deputy Directors
Nā Hope Luna Ho'okele
DREANALEE K. KALILI
TAMMY L. LEE
ROBIN K. SHISHIDO

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

Monday, March 6, 2024
1:00 P.M.
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
State Capitol

In consideration of
Governor's Message 593
Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Chairperson, Department of
Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, Dexter Kishita

Senate Committee on Agriculture & Environment

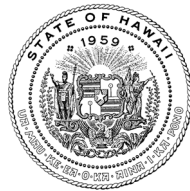
The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** the confirmation of Dexter Kishita as Deputy to the Chairperson for the Department of Agriculture (DOA).

Mr. Kishita has a long and distinguished career in agriculture, spanning 15 years. He has a deep understanding of the industry's challenges and opportunities, and he has a proven track record of success in securing Federal funds to strengthen the local food system.

Mr. Kishita is a forward-thinking individual who is committed to innovation. He understands the need to adapt to changing circumstances and is always looking for new ways to improve the agricultural sector.

The DOT believes that Mr. Kishita will be an asset to the DOA. He is a highly qualified and experienced individual with a strong commitment to public service.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT 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. 593

March 6, 2024
1:00 p.m.
Room 224 & Videoconference

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

Chair Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support the appointment of Dexter Kishida to the position of deputy to the chairperson of the Department of Agriculture. I am working with Dexter Kishida in my professional capacity as 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.

Mr. Kishida 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.

Mr. Kishida has been serving as the deputy to the chairperson at the Department of Agriculture since August 2023. Prior to that, he has experience working at the City and County of Honolulu as the food security and sustainability program manager. His work experience will benefit the department and the State; therefore, I support his confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



KEITH A. REGAN
COMPTROLLER
KA LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

MEOH-LENG SILLIMAN
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES | KA 'OIHANA LOIHELU A LAWELAWE LAULĀ
P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
OF
KEITH A. REGAN, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

MARCH 6, 2024, 1:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224 AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL

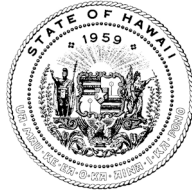
G.M. 593
SUBMITTING FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DEPUTY
DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, GUBERNATORIAL
NOMINEE, DEXTER KISHIDA, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-31-2026.

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on G.M. 593. I **support** the nomination of Dexter Kishida as Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture (DOA).

Mr. Kishida has led the DOA as Deputy Director since September 2023. He also has served as administrator for the food security and sustainability program with the City and County of Honolulu since 2020. In addition, Mr. Kishida has served as the Farm to School Coordinator at the Hawai'i Department of Education from 2012 to 2020.

He has a proven track record of team leadership within state, county and private organizations. Mr. Kishida's commitment to public service and Hawai'i's food sustainability/security makes him the ideal candidate to serve as Deputy Director of the DOA.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



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
Wednesday, March 6, 2024

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 593
NOMINATION OF DEXTER KISHIDA, AS DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE
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 Dexter Kishida as Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture.

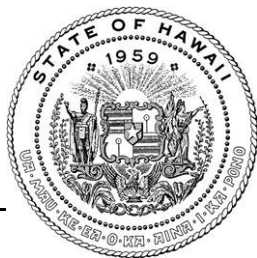
Mr. Kishida has a wealth of experience in agriculture, food service, and education.

He has served as the first Food Security and Sustainability Program Manager with the City and County of Honolulu since 2020 and has implemented grants and partnerships to strengthen our local food system while building strong partnerships with public and private agencies.

He was the Farm to School Coordinator, School Food Services Supervisor for 46 schools on Oahu and Kauai for the State Department of Education from 2012-2020 where he worked with the community and legislators to create a long-term farm to school plan along with many other achievements.

He served as a member of the Hawaii Investment Ready Food System Cohort 2023, is a founding member of the Hawaii Institutional Purchasing Hui, and one of 13 city representatives nationwide to advise the Rockefeller City Food System Cohort.

I believe Mr. Kishida would be a great addition to the Department of Agriculture and I am pleased to support his confirmation.



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI
A HO'OMĀKA'IKĀ'I

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
DIRECTOR

DANE K. WICKER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Web site: dbedt.hawaii.gov

Telephone: (808) 586-2355
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Testimony of
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

1:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In consideration of
GM 593

**Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson,
Department of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, DEXTER KISHIDA,
for a term to expire 12-31-2026.**

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

I **support** the appointment of Dexter Kishida to serve as the Deputy to the Department of Agriculture Chairperson.

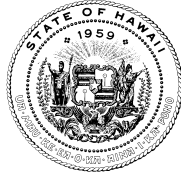
Mr. Kishida has a strong background in increasing local food production and purchasing, communicating with multiple levels of government and across sectors, and bringing people together to build coalitions working toward increased food security and sustainability for a better Hawai'i.

Mr. Kishida has over a decade of experience working at both the county and state levels, with positions held at the Hawai'i Department of Education (HIDOE) as a Farm to School Coordinator and School Food Services Supervisor and most recently at the City and County of Honolulu where he was the first Food Security and Sustainability Program Manager. While Mr. Kishida was at HIDOE, I witnessed firsthand his efforts with Kaua'i complex schools and how he worked with hotel and community partners to make the Farm to School program successful. He also has experience with the Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation building government relationships to advance the Farm to School initiative.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask for Mr. Kishida's confirmation as the Deputy to the Department of Agriculture Chairperson. I look forward to continuing to work with him to strengthen the State's essential lifelines through innovation in agriculture and food production toward a more economically sustainable Hawai'i. Thank you for the opportunity to offer my support.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
*Ke Kia'āina o ka Moku'āina 'o
Hawai'i*

SYLVIA J. LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
*Ka Hope Kia'āina o ka Moku'āina
'o Hawai'i*



KALI WATSON
CHAIRMAN, HHC
Ka Luna Ho'okele

KATIE L. DUCATT
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN
Ka Hope Luna Ho'okele

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

Ka 'Oihana 'Āina Ho'opulapula Hawai'i

P. O. BOX 1879
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

TESTIMONY OF KALI WATSON, CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
HEARING ON MARCH 6, 2024 AT 1:00PM IN CR 224

IN SUPPORT OF

GM 593

for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson,
Department of Agriculture,
Governatorial Nominee, **DEXTER KISHIDA**,
for a term to expire 12-31-2026

March 6, 2024

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Dexter Kishida as the Deputy to the Chairperson for the Department of Agriculture (DOA).

Mr. Kishida's vast experience in program development, coalition building, and government relations is reflected in his partnerships with various public and private institutions. His ability to secure CARES Act funds, ARPA funds, and USDA funds is proven and will be useful for the DOA and the State of Hawai'i. As a leader, Mr. Kishida is a problem solver, effective communicator, and remains flexible through diverse challenges.

DHHL looks forward to working in partnership with Dexter Kishida and we respectfully ask your committee to advise and consent to this nomination. Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 03/06/2024

Time: 01:00 PM

Location: CR 224 & Videoconference

Committee: Senate Agriculture and
Environment

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: GM 0593 Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, DEXTER KISHIDA, for a term to expire 12-31-2026.

Purpose of Bill:

Department's Position:

As the Superintendent of the Hawaii State Department of Education, I am writing to support the nomination of Dexter Kishida for the position of Deputy to the Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA).

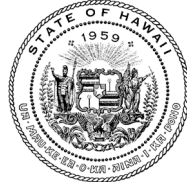
With over a decade of experience in various capacities within efforts to enhance Hawaii's food security, I believe Mr. Kishida's qualifications and dedication make him an outstanding candidate for this crucial role. His commitment to supporting local agriculture, combined with his proven ability to articulate needs, develop strategic plans, and foster collaboration, uniquely positions him to empower the team at the HDOA and advance our shared goals.

Mr. Kishida's vision for Hawaii's agricultural sector aligns with our objectives for increasing local food within our schools and cafeterias. His experience in initiatives such as Farm to School and Food Security and Sustainability programs demonstrates his commitment to addressing complex challenges and driving positive change. Moreover, his understanding of the intricacies of HDOA's operations will be invaluable in advocating for the actions necessary to support farmers in achieving Hawaii's local production goals.

Thank you for considering Mr. Kishida's nomination, and I look forward to the opportunity to work together in supporting Hawaii's farmers and agricultural community.

JOSH GREEN M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



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

GARY S. SUGANUMA
DIRECTOR

KRISTEN M.R. SAKAMOTO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

TESTIMONY ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

In consideration of G.M. No. 593

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture, Gubernatorial nominee, Dexter Kishida

BEFORE THE:

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

DATE: Wednesday, March 6, 2024
TIME: 1:00 p.m.
LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 224

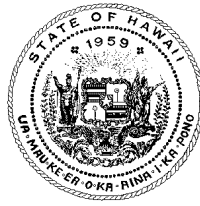
Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of the confirmation of Mr. Dexter Kishida as Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture (HDOA).

I believe that Mr. Kishida's experience with the City and County of Honolulu's Food Security and Sustainability Program, the State of Hawai'i Department of Education's Farm to School Program, and his non-profit sector experience makes him an excellent candidate for Deputy to the Chairperson of the HDOA. Through his past work, Mr. Kishida has demonstrated his commitment to supporting local agriculture and I am confident that he is qualified to serve as Deputy to the Chairperson of the HDOA.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Governor's Message 593.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



JORDAN LOWE
DIRECTOR

MICHAEL VINCENT
Deputy Director
Administration

JARED K. REDULLA
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

SYLVIA LUKE
LT GOVERNOR
KE KE'ENA

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

Ka 'Oihana Ho'okō Kānāwai

715 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

No. **2024-0054**

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR MESSAGE NO. 593
RELATING TO THE NOMINATION OF DEXTER KISHIDA
TO BE THE DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRPERSON,
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

By

Jordan Lowe, Director

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

Wednesday, March 6, 2024; 1:00 p.m.
State Capitol Conference Room 224 & Via Videoconference

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

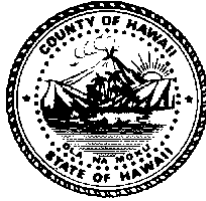
Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee:

I submit this testimony in support of the nomination and confirmation of Dexter Kishida to be the Deputy to the Chair, Department of Agriculture (HDOA). Mr. Kishida has vast work experience in private, public, and non-profit sectors. His unique work experience in Food Service Management in our public school's cafeteria and relationships with the agricultural industry gives him the knowledge and experience that would best fit the position as Deputy.

Mr. Kishida's ability to collaborate with partner agencies to make the department's pilot program, Food to School resulted in a positive outcome for all parties.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Governor's Message 593 and Mr. Dexter Kishida.

Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor



Douglass S. Adams
Director

Frecia Cevallos
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 4, 2024

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi, Senate President,
and Members of the Senate
Thirty-Second State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Support for Governor's Message 593--Dexter Kishida's Nomination for Deputy to the
Chairperson of the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture

My name is Sarah Freeman, Economic Development Specialist in Food Systems for the
Department of Research and Development, County of Hawai'i. I am submitting this letter
for strong support of Dexter Kishida's nomination to serve as Deputy to the Chairperson
of the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture.

Our department's objectives are to support our agricultural producers and industries
through research, development, and education that improves production, quality, and
producer viability, increase consumption of agricultural and value-added products,
reduce the negative impact of invasive species, and support the facilitation and
collaboration of food system and local agricultural partners and networks.

I have worked with Dexter over the past seven years in his various positions. From when
I was a farm manager, supporting the Kohala Farm to School Pilot Program. Then in his
position at Honolulu City & County as fellow Food Access Coordinators working to
solve food access and systems challenges. Dexter has always worked diligently to
improve agriculture and food access in Hawai'i and has demonstrated the ability to build
strong partnerships throughout the system to catalyze change.

I find great value in working with Dexter Kishida and look forward to Hawai'i County's
agricultural producers and food systems benefiting from his continued efforts to support
the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture's programs, new initiatives, and to improve
Hawai'i's agricultural foundation.

May 1, 2023

Page 2

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my strong support for Dexter Kishida's nomination to serve as Deputy to the Chairperson of the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture.

Sarah Freeman

Sarah Freeman
Department of Research and Development
County of Hawai'i

GM-593

Submitted on: 3/1/2024 11:18:57 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/6/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Douglass Adams	Testifying for Dept of Research & Development, County of Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Dexter Kishida to serve as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture through December 31, 2026. Dexter's experience and resume speak for themselves as to his quality and capacity to serve in this vital position. I would instead address our direct connection with Dexter in his previous positions with the Department of Education, the City and County of Honolulu, and in his current position in the Department of Agriculture. We have always found Dexter to be collaborative in his relations with our County and members of the food system on the Island of Hawai'i. In addition, the breadth and depth of his substantive knowledge and his leadership talents have proven over time to be essential to the state's ability to develop and implement an agricultural strategic plan.

We highly encourage the Committee to forward Dexter Kishida's nomination to the Senate with a favorable recommendation for confirmation.

very respectfully

Douglass S. Adams

Director, Department of Research & Development

County of Hawai'i

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

NALANI BRUN, DIRECTOR



DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR
REIKO MATSUYAMA, MANAGING DIRECTOR

Testimony of Nalani Kaauwai Brun

Director, Office of Economic Development- County of Kaua'i

Before the

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

March 6, 2024, at 1:00 PM

Room 224 & Via Videoconference

In consideration of

GM 593

Honorable Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Governors Message 593. The County of Kauai Office of Economic Development **strongly supports GM 593**, which submits Dexter Kishida for nomination to serve as Deputy to the Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture, for a term to expire on December 31, 2026.

As a county entity invested in the well-being of our agriculture sector and the sustainable development of Kauai's economy, the Office of Economic Development believes that Mr. Kishida's qualifications, experience, and dedication make him an outstanding candidate for this important position.

Mr. Kishida's extensive background in Hawaii's food system, coupled with his leadership skills and commitment to innovation, uniquely positions him to contribute to the advancement of Hawaii's agriculture industry. With well over a decade of experience in the field, including serving as the Hawaii State Department of Education's Farm to School Coordinator and City and County of Honolulu Food Security and Sustainability Program Manager, Mr. Kishida has demonstrated an aptitude in navigating the complex challenges facing our agriculture industry while spearheading initiatives that promote economic sustainability, resilience, and growth.

Additionally, Mr. Kishida's track record of collaboration with diverse stakeholders demonstrates his capacity to build consensus and drive progress. His ability to engage with producers, decision makers, researchers and community will be invaluable in promoting a more cohesive and effective approach to improving Hawaii's agriculture industry and overall food system.

The Office of Economic Development stands in strong support of confirmation of Dexter Kishida to serve as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. His expertise, integrity and vision make him an outstanding choice for this role, and we are confident his leadership will serve the best interests of Hawaii for years to come.

Thank you for considering this testimony in support of GM 593.



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 6, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON GM 593

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson,
Department of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, DEXTER KISHIDA, for a term to expire
12-31-2026

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
1:00 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 Dexter Kishida as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture.

HFB has had the opportunity to work with Mr. Kishida for the past fifteen years. We have collaborated with Mr. Kishida while he served as the School Food Coordinator at the Kokua Hawai'i Foundation, during his tenure at the Hawai'i Department of Education, as the Food Security and Sustainability Program Manager at the City and County of Honolulu, and in his current capacity as the Acting Deputy Director of the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture. We have found Mr. Kishida to be exceptionally qualified, dedicated, honest, and fair in handling the many complicated agricultural issues he faced in his different roles. He is personable, listens to and considers all points of view, and has excellent communication skills.

As an agricultural-based organization, HFB appreciates Mr. Kishida's support for all agriculture and his commitment to addressing the many important challenges facing Hawai'i's farming and ranching community. His experience is complemented by a strong work ethic and dedication that will undoubtedly combine to provide positive leadership for the Department of Agriculture.

HFB looks forward to continuing to work with Mr. Kishida as Hawai'i's producers strive to move our state closer to food self-sufficiency, ever mindful of the public trust resources we steward and rely upon. Thank you for the opportunity to offer our strong support for Dexter Kishida.



COORDINATING GROUP ON
ALIEN PEST SPECIES

The Senate
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Wednesday, March 6, 2024
1:00 PM Conference Room 224
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of GM593

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

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) is **in strong support of GM593**, the confirmation of Dexter Kishida as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA), for a term to expire December 31, 2026.

CGAPS rarely submits testimony on gubernatorial nominees, but we feel compelled to speak about our experience working with Dexter over the last several months and why we are in strong support. Dexter has exceptional leadership qualities. He has consistently shown his willingness to listen and engage in meaningful discussions and to respectfully consider other viewpoints even when he or his agency may disagree, and he is transparent and honest in sharing the Chair's decisions and direction. Dexter has quickly learned about state and federal invasive species policies and programs and has worked internally and with other state and federal agencies to guide HDOA's biosecurity preparations to support the upcoming Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture.

Concerning Dexter's experience with agriculture, we have been in meetings with agriculture leaders and service providers and we see the respect that Dexter has earned in his former roles. We are grateful and optimistic about Dexter's willingness to continue to do more to support local agriculture through the Deputy position and for his understanding of HDOA's role in protecting the islands through the prevention and control of invasive species.

For these reasons, we are in strong support of the confirmation of Dexter Kishida as Deputy to the Chair of HDOA. Mahalo for the opportunity to share our testimony.

Aloha,

Christy Martin
CGAPS Program Manager

Stephanie Easley
CGAPS Legal Fellow



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT
Wednesday, March 6, 2024 — 1:00 p.m.

Ulupono Initiative strongly supports GM 593, Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, Dexter Kishida, 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 593, which submits for consideration and confirmation Dexter Kishida as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture (DOA).

Dexter Kishida has served in many important agricultural roles over his career, including serving as the Farm to School Coordinator at the Hawai'i Department of Education and as the Food Security and Sustainability Program Manager at the City and County of Honolulu (CCH). In each role, Mr. Kishida was tasked to work closely with local farmers and ranchers to understand the needs of the industry and develop business opportunities to spur farmer growth and economic viability. In his previous role with the CCH Office of Economic Revitalization, Dexter helped to secure millions of dollars in pandemic federal dollars that helped to keep farmers and ranchers in business while also providing opportunities to scale and expand local ag operations.

We have had the pleasure of working with Dexter in both his previous roles and his current Deputy role and believe that he has the strength of will and determination necessary to help see agriculture succeed here in Hawai'i. Mr. Kishida's professional career, coupled with his passion to support local agriculture, will without a doubt provide an impactful presence at the DOA as Hawai'i looks to expand and enhance our local agricultural industry. Ulupono humbly asks this committee and the Legislature for their support of the nomination of Dexter Kishida as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the DOA.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i

kōkua hawai'i foundation



March 5, 2024

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

THE HONORABLE MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR
THE HONORABLE HERBERT M. "TIM" RICHARDS III, VICE CHAIR

GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE DEXTER KISHIDA
SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS DEPUTY TO THE
CHAIRPERSON, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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

It is our pleasure to provide testimony before the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment, in **strong support of GM593**, the confirmation of Mr. Dexter Kishida as Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Agriculture.

Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded in 2003 that supports environmental education in the schools and communities of Hawai'i. We provide opportunities that will enhance one's appreciation for and understanding of the environment so that they will be lifelong stewards of the earth. Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation programs include 'ĀINA In Schools, 3Rs School Program, Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation Field Trip Grants, Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation Project Grants and Plastic Free Hawai'i. KHF is based on 8 acres in the heart of Hale'iwa town providing agricultural, educational, and retail activities that benefit the community and promote local food, waste reduction, and environmental stewardship. The site houses the 7 acre Kōkua Learning Farm, Kōkua General Store, Kōkua Vintage, and KHF support offices, and will soon be home to the Kōkua Community Center and 'ĀINA Farm Stand.

We first met Dexter Kishida in 2006 when launching the 'ĀINA In Schools program, a farm to school initiative connecting children to their local land, waters, and food to grow a healthier Hawai'i. At the time, Dexter worked with Sodexo at Wai'ālae Public Charter School in their school cafeteria. In 2009, Dexter came to work at Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation as our School Food Coordinator. During his 3 year tenure he helped to unpack the complexities of the USDA & HiDOE's feeding programs and began to chart a path for advocacy and implementation for more local ingredients and scratched cooked meals. In 2012 Dexter took a position as a School Food Supervisor, then the Farm to School Coordinator in the School Food Services Branch of HiDOE. While at the HiDOE, Dexter was instrumental in the implementation of 'Āina Pono, an initiative to feed keiki healthy, nutritious, and fresh food. The program was successfully implemented in the Kohala Complex and Mililani Complex Areas. The program hit its 4 main goals 1) Increase HiDOE's purchasing of local food for school breakfast, lunch, and snack programs, 2) Increase student participation in child nutrition programs, 3) Increase student consumption of healthy foods in school meals, and 4) the initiative to be cost-neutral over time, i.e., implementation costs will be covered by cost-savings generated. Dexter was key to the success of this initiative! Unfortunately the program was not rolled out to Kaua'i as part of Phase 3, but the effects of the program linger in Kohala & Mililani. While Dexter was at C&C of Honolulu as their Food Security and Sustainable Program Manager, he continued to engage with Farm to School advocacy through the Hawai'i Farm to School Hui, providing guidance and expertise on working with farmers, complexities of procurement and the many challenges our current food system faces.

We have all experienced and benefited from Dexter's leadership and commitment to our collective efforts to strengthen Hawai'i's food systems. His ability to collaborate and build trust with partners is a unique strength and skill set that we critically need at HDOA in this moment of opportunity for us to collectively shift the trajectory of Hawai'i's food systems.

We highly recommend Mr. Dexter Kishida for the position as Deputy to the Chairperson. He will be a tremendous asset to the Department of Agriculture, and to the farm and food industries throughout Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Handwritten signature of Kim Johnson in black ink.

Kim Johnson,
Co-Founder, President, CEO

Handwritten signature of Natalie McKinney in black ink.

Natalie McKinney,
Chief Program Officer

Handwritten signature of Liz Fujii in black ink.

Liz Fujii,
Chief Operating Officer

www.kokuahawaiiifoundation.org

P.O. Box 866, Hale'iwa, HI 96712 • Tel: (808) 638-5145 • Fax: (808) 638-0757 • info@kokuahawaiiifoundation.org

The Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that supports environmental education in the schools and communities of Hawai'i.



GM-593

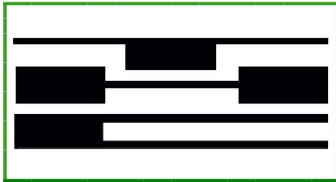
Submitted on: 2/27/2024 6:16:22 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/6/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Megan Fox	Testifying for Malama Kaua'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mr. Kishida has in-depth, hands-on experience in both government and on-the-ground programming in Hawai'i focused on food access and agriculture and most importantly - he gets the job done. I couldn't think of anyone more poised for success and impact in this role.



TEA HAWAII & COMPANY



February 27, 2024

Dear AEN Committee,
Regarding Bill 593 GM

On behalf of the many tea farmers throughout the state of Hawaii and as a business owner engaged with programs from County, State and Federal levels in establishing Hawaii tea agriculture I enthusiastically support the nomination of Dexter Kishida as the Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Agriculture. It is most clear his work over the years provides a strong professionalism that will enhance the HDOA team effort in moving our agriculture communities forward for Hawaii's people.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,

Eva Lee

Director

Hawaii Tea Agriculture Advocacy

PO Box 362 Volcano, Hawaii 96785
Tel/Fax (808) -967-7637 email teahawaii@gmail.com
www.teahawaii.com

GM-593

Submitted on: 2/28/2024 4:16:47 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/6/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shane Kamealoha Castillo	Testifying for C&C TROPICALS	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of the Gubernatorial Nominee, DEXTER KISHIDA as Deputy to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture Chair, Sharon Hurd. Mahalo!

GM-593

Submitted on: 2/28/2024 8:23:09 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/6/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lin ter Horst	Testifying for Maui Epicure LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We are submitting our testimony in support of Dexter Kishida's candidacy for the position of the Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Agriculture because Mr. Kishida has demonstrated a successful track record in supporting local food security and sustainability, as well a passion in education and community engagement aimed at improving the lives of every person in the state of Hawaii.

Mr. Kishida possesses the drive and the skills that our state sorely needs, evident in his continuous pursuit of knowledge and expertise throughout his career, that makes him a valuable resource for the Department of Agriculture, particularly at this critical juncture, as our state must regain our agricultural roots and quickly move towards diversification of our economy.

As a fruit processor and value-added product manufacturer on Maui, we have a deep appreciation for how strategically allocated government resources can consequentially impact the local circular economy. Having been a beneficiary of various grants from the Maui County to the federal and state government that have altered the trajectory of our company's growth, we hope Mr. Kishida will have the opportunity to further contribute his energy, talent, and know-hows to bring about even more success for food producers in Hawaii.

Aloha.

GM-593

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 8:41:01 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/6/2024 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hawaii Tropical Fruit Growers and its 2800 members are in full support of Mr Kishida. He has demonstrated his willingness to work with growers around the state to support all of Hawaii's agriculture. I look forward to working with him in the future on a personal as well as organizational level. Hawaii's agriculture needs him and chairperson Hurd to lead us forward.

Ken Love



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

February 26, 2024

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

1:00 PM Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

RE: GM 593

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

I am honored to submit this testimony in support of the appointment of Dexter Kishida as Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture.

North Shore EVP started working with Dexter back when he was in the Department of Economic Development for the City and County of Honolulu. It only took one meeting to convince him that food safety certification was the linchpin in attaining government's goal of increasing local food production and making that production available to commercial and institutional markets including the state agencies identified in Act 175. Using city and county CARES Act funds we were able to touch almost a dozen farms on Oahu to provide technical assistance and financial support to help them prepare for food safety training.

As much as we regret losing our champion in the C&C, we are delighted that Dexter has taken the Deputy to the Chairperson position at the Department of Agriculture. Due in part to support from the C&C via the Office of Economic Development, the USDA Hawaii GroupGAP food safety training and certification program now has farms on every island in the state except for Lanai. While we have always had a strong relationship with the Department of Agriculture, having Dexter in the Deputy to the Chairperson position provides an opportunity to work more closely with the department as we continue to expand the GroupGAP program to new communities across the state.

Thank you all in advance for your support in moving Dexter Kishida into the position of deputy to the chairperson of the Department of Agriculture.

Aloha,

Kevin Kelly

GM-593

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 10:48:11 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/6/2024 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and members of the AEN Committee:

On Behalf of the Hawaii Coffee Growers Association, we support the confirmation of Mr. Dexter Kishida for the role of Deputy Chair to the Department of Agriculture. We within the the coffee farming sector of the industry have had positive meetings in his short time working within the Department and Chair Hurd. We therefore urge you to formally confirm his status as deputy by passing this measure.

Mahalo for your consideration.

February 29, 2024



SENATE COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

THE HONORABLE MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR

THE HONORABLE HERBERT M. "TIM" RICHARDS III, VICE CHAIR

GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE DEXTER KISHIDA
SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS DEPUTY TO THE
CHAIRPERSON, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Testimony of **Jason T. Okuhama**

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

It is my pleasure to provide testimony before the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment, in strong support of GM593, the confirmation of Mr. Dexter Kishida as Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Agriculture.

I am the Managing Partner of Commercial and Business Lending, a small business that specializes in loan programs for the agricultural and food industries. I have experienced Mr. Kishida's tireless work ethic as the Farm to School Coordinator with the State Department of Education, and as the Food Security and Sustainable Program Manager, with the City and County of Honolulu. I have always found Mr. Kishida to be very diligent, conscientious, hardworking, of high integrity, and extremely results driven.

I participate with Mr. Kishida in the Ag Finance Hui and work closely with him as part of the Hawaii Investment Ready (HIR) Funder Cohort. The Ag Finance Hui brought 18 agricultural funders and related organizations together, to address the financing needs of businesses operating across Hawaii's food and agricultural sectors. The HIR Funder Cohort brought together selected representatives from government, philanthropy, and the private sector, and created meaningful relationships and collaboration between funders. Mr. Kishida brought the government's viewpoint and outlook into the various conversations, and his ongoing contributions have been very informative and invaluable from the government's perspective.

I highly recommend Mr. Dexter Kishida for the position as Deputy to the Chairperson. He will be a tremendous asset to the Department of Agriculture, and to the farm and food industries throughout Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jason T. Okuhama', is written over the word 'Respectfully'.

Jason T. Okuhama
Commercial and Business Lending

1188 Bishop Street
Suite 602
Honolulu, HI 96813
Ph (808) 585-7227
Fax (808) 585-7447
www.cblending.com

GM-593

Submitted on: 3/3/2024 2:37:49 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/6/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
stephanie iona	Testifying for Kekaha Agriculture Association	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

On behalf of the members of Kekaha Agriculture Assn who consist of Hartung Brothers, Kauai Shrimp, Corteva Agriscience, and numerous small farms, we wholeheartedly support the appointment of Dexter Kishida as Deputy Director of The Dept of Agriculture. We had the privilege of working with Mr Kishida when he was with the Dept of Education to promote farm fresh meals for students on Kauai, and during the COVID years he worked for the C&C of Honolulu and we provided food distributions with our partners at Hawai'i Food bank and The Farm Bureau. He is an outstanding leader, and we look forward to working with Dexter to achieve our goals of food sustainability in Hawaii. Your support for his nomination is appreciated. Stephanie Iona Civil Engagement Manager



March 4, 2024

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Louis F. Perez II
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Pacific American Foundation
C/O 111 Hekili Street Suite A 170
Kailua, Hawaii 96734

Phone: (808) 664-3027
www.thepaf.org

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair
Committee on Agriculture & the Environment
Hawaii State Senate

Dear Chair Gabbard and Members:

Re: GM 593: Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, DEXTER KISHIDA, for a term to expire 12-31-2026,

My name is Herb Lee, Jr., President & CEO of the Pacific American Foundation (PAF), a Native Hawaiian serving non-profit organization since 1993. Our mission is to "improve the lives of all Pacific Americans through service with dignity, courage, humility, and competence."

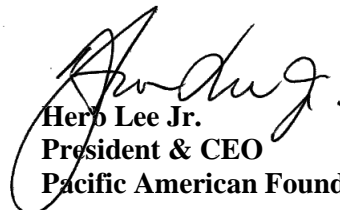
I am writing in support of Dexter Kishida for the position of Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Agriculture.

I have previously worked with Dexter Kishida in his capacity at the Department of Education and more recently at the City Office of Economic Development. He is knowledgeable, is always prepared, passionate about what he does and is a very caring individual. What I enjoyed and respected most about Dexter is his ability to problem solve, stay focused and follow through on his word.

I think he will make a great Deputy to the Department of Agriculture and bring that collaborative spirit to a position that will only enhance his service as a public official.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Herb Lee Jr.
President & CEO
Pacific American Foundation



February 29, 2024

SENATE COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

THE HONORABLE MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR

THE HONORABLE HERBERT M. "TIM" RICHARDS III, VICE CHAIR

GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE DEXTER KISHIDA
SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS DEPUTY TO THE
CHAIRPERSON, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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

On behalf of Feed The Hunger Fund, I am writing this letter in strong support of the confirmation of Mr. Dexter Kishida as Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Agriculture.

I am the CEO of Feed The Hunger Fund, a Community Development Finance Institution that has provided micro and small businesses with loans and technical assistance in the agricultural and food industries for the last fourteen years. During much of that time, I have witnessed Mr. Kishida's tireless work ethic as the Food Security and Sustainable Program Manager, with the City and County of Honolulu and with the Department of Agriculture. I have found Mr. Kishida to be steadfast, thoughtful, committed, and helpful in all of our interactions.

Feed the Hunger Fund has participated with Mr. Kishida in the Ag Finance Hui and works closely with him as part of the Hawaii Investment Ready (HIR) Funder Cohort. The Ag Finance Hui brought 18 agricultural funders and related organizations together, to address the financing needs of businesses operating across Hawaii's food and agricultural sectors. The HIR Funder Cohort brought together selected representatives from government, philanthropy, and the private sector, and created meaningful relationships and collaboration between funders. Mr. Kishida brought the government's viewpoint and outlook into the various conversations, and his ongoing contributions have been very informative and invaluable.

Feed The Hunger Fund has also worked closely with Kahumana Farms and Mr. Kishida on the Kaukau4Keiki program that provided 22,300 keiki with 330,000 meals last summer in Wai'anae. Without Mr. Kishida's assistance, this program would not have been operationalized.

I highly recommend Mr. Dexter Kishida for the position as Deputy to the Chairperson. He will be a tremendous asset to the Department of Agriculture, to the farm and food industries throughout the state, and ultimately to the people of Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

36B429C4E6FF450...
Patricia Chang, CEO
Feed The Hunger Fund



CALIFORNIA
100 Montgomery St.
The Presidio
San Francisco, CA 94129

WWW.FEED-HUNGER.COM
415.432.8202

HAWAII
1050 Bishop St
Ste. 387
Honolulu, HI 96813



1050 Bishop St. PMB 235 | Honolulu, HI 96813
P: 808-533-1292 | e: info@hawaiiifood.com

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Eddie Asato, Pint Size Hawaii, *Immediate Past Chair*

TO: Committee on Agriculture and Environment

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: March 6, 2024
TIME: 1pm
PLACE: Room 224

Subject: Endorsement of GM593 and Nomination of Dexter Kishida as Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Agriculture

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Esteemed Committee Members,

On behalf of the Hawaii Food Industry Association (HFIA), representing over two hundred member companies spanning retailers, suppliers, producers, manufacturers, and distributors of food and beverage-related products in Hawaii, I am writing to express our full support for GM593 and the nomination of Dexter Kishida as Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Agriculture.

In his capacity as the Food Security and Sustainability Program Manager, Mr. Kishida has consistently demonstrated a dedicated commitment to enhancing Hawaii's food systems through strategic policies and programs. His proactive approach has exemplified an understanding of the intricate dynamics of our state's agricultural landscape.

Moreover, Mr. Kishida has proven himself to be a champion of collaboration, recognizing the necessity of cohesive efforts among diverse stakeholders to address the multifaceted challenges confronting Hawaii's food systems. We firmly believe that his experience, expertise, and collaborative spirit make him exceptionally well-suited for the role of Deputy Chair of the Department of Agriculture.

HFIA stands in staunch support of Mr. Kishida's nomination and eagerly anticipates the positive impact his leadership will bring to our agricultural community. We are enthusiastic about the prospect of working closely with him to advance the goals of food security, sustainability, and prosperity for all stakeholders involved.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to reach out should you require any further information or assistance.

Warm regards,

Lauren Zirbel Executive Director Hawaii Food Industry Association

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

GM 593 Gubernatorial Nominee Dexter Kishida, Deputy to the Chair, Department of Agriculture
Sen AEN Hearing – 1:00 PM
Wednesday, March 6, 2024

Testimony By: Larry Jeffs
Position: Support

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

I am Larry Jeffs, owner and operator of Larry Jeffs Farms, LLC. We have more than 42 years of Hawaii farm experience on Molokai and Oahu. Our family farms grow about 1 million pounds weekly of import replacement produce. I am a volunteer director, serving as Chair of the West Oahu Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). I have been an officer of the Hawaii Farm Bureau for many years.

Dexter Kishida is no stranger to Hawaii's local food system. His experience with the Department of Education's Farm to School initiative and the City and County of Honolulu's Food Security and Sustainability Program demonstrates he is an asset to the Department of Agriculture and the State as we strive to increase local food production and support farmers and ranchers.

One of his many skills is developing and executing a systems approach to problem-solving while having the ability to understand the details. Dexter Kishida's experience with increasing local food purchasing involved coalition building with businesses, private and public schools, farmers and ranchers. This demands a high level of communication, flexibility and adaptability.

Your support of Dexter Kishida's gubernatorial appointment as Deputy to the Chair of the Department of Agriculture is appreciated. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.



Lucas McKinnon
Managing Director
Hawai'i Good Food Alliance
3/4/2024

Chair, Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Testimony in Strong Support of Confirmation for Deputy Dexter Kishida

Aloha,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing on behalf of the Hawaii Good Food Alliance to express our wholehearted support for the confirmation of Deputy Dexter Kishida as the Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Agriculture.

Deputy Kishida's dedication to Hawaii agriculture and his commendable efforts have significantly contributed to the advancement and betterment of the industry. His commitment to sustainable and resilient agricultural practices aligns seamlessly with the goals and values of the Hawaii Good Food Alliance.

As an organization committed to promoting a healthy, sustainable, and resilient food system in Hawaii, we have closely observed Deputy Kishida's work and have been impressed by his proactive approach to addressing the challenges faced by our agricultural community. His leadership has been instrumental in fostering collaboration between various stakeholders, resulting in positive outcomes for Hawaii's farmers and food producers.

We believe that Deputy Dexter Kishida's reappointment is crucial for the continued growth and prosperity of Hawaii's agriculture sector. His extensive knowledge, experience, and dedication make him an invaluable asset to the Department of Agriculture and an advocate for the well-being of our agricultural community. His continued presence at the Department of Agriculture will undoubtedly contribute to the enhancement of policies and initiatives that support the growth and sustainability of Hawaii's agricultural sector.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we appreciate your commitment to the welfare of Hawaii's agriculture. We trust that Deputy Dexter Kishida's confirmation will further strengthen the Department of Agriculture and benefit our entire community.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lucas McKinnon
Managing Director
lucas@hawaiigoodfoodalliance.org
Hawai'i Good Food Alliance

The Hawai'i Good Food Alliance is a diverse hui of individuals and organizations who share in the production, aggregation, and distribution of food, and share in the practice of mālama 'āina to re-build thriving community food systems. We join together—with a sense of urgency—to raise community voice and support one another in the belief that each and every person in Hawai'i can share in healthy, locally produced food.





Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

GM593

Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Agriculture
Dexter Kishida

Wednesday, March 6, 2024, 1:00 PM
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

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

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **GM593** for the confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, Dexter Kishida.

Dexter Kishida has proven to be competent and diligent and the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council appreciates being able to work with him on initiatives that help the producer on the ground. He has shown his dedication to agriculture with quick decision making and action to help ranchers and farmers after the August fires in Kula and Lahaina.

His background in food systems gives him the thoughtfulness to understand the full system – this is crucial for a successful leader. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture will benefit from Dexter filling the role of Deputy to the Chairperson because Mr. Kishida is willing to put in the work to listen to the farmers and ranchers on the ground and ensure that needs are met.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure. 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.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council



GM-593

Submitted on: 3/5/2024 2:34:39 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/6/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shantelle-Leilani Tamayo	Testifying for Kokua Hawaii Foundation	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 5, 2024

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

THE HONORABLE MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR

THE HONORABLE HERBERT M. "TIM" RICHARDS III, VICE CHAIR

GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE DEXTER KISHIDA

SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS DEPUTY TO THE
CHAIRPERSON, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Testimony of Shantelle-Leilani Tamayo

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

It is my pleasure to provide testimony before the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment, in support of GM593, the confirmation of Mr. Dexter Kishida as Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Agriculture.

I am the Grants Manager of Kokua Hawai'i Foundation.

Through our work at Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation we have all experienced and benefited from Mr. Dexter Kishida's leadership and commitment to our collective efforts to strengthen Hawai'i's food systems. His ability to collaborate and build trust with partners is a unique strength and skill set that we critically need at HDOA in this moment of opportunity for us to collectively shift the trajectory of Hawai'i's food systems.

Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation (KHF) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded in 2003 by Kim and Jack Johnson, that supports environmental education in the schools and communities of Hawai'i. KHF provides opportunities that will enhance one's appreciation for and understanding of the environment so that they will be lifelong stewards of the earth. KHF's 'ĀINA In Schools program is a farm to school initiative that connects children to their local land, waters, and food to grow a healthier Hawaii. In addition to encouraging the use of locally grown fruits and vegetables in school meals and snacks, the program includes standards-based nutrition, garden and compost curricula that empower children to grow their own food, make informed food decisions, and reduce waste. This program has also provided professional development training for over 675 educators from 250 schools and organizations throughout Hawai'i and in California.

Through this work I have known Mr. Dexter Kishida to be knowledgeable and articulate. I highly recommend Mr. Dexter Kishida and he will be a tremendous asset to the Department of Agriculture and to the farming and food industries in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Respectfully,

Shantelle-Leilani Tamayo

Kokua Hawai'i Foundation

PO Box 866

Haleiwa, HI 96712

GM-593

Submitted on: 3/4/2024 2:59:02 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/6/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Redfeather	Testifying for Ka Ohana O Na Pua	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Ka Ohana O Na Pua stands in full support for Dexter Kishida to be confirmed as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. Ka Ohana O Na Pua is a non-profit on Hawaii Island whose mission is Agricultural Education Keiki to Kupuna.

I have known Dexter since 2008 and have worked with him on many projects related to agricultural education over the past 16 years. As our young people become more interested in learning how and beginning to farm, as can be seen by the rise in the number of young and beginning farmers enrolled in GoFarm Programs, leaders are needed inside HDOA who have background knowledge of Hawaii's food systems at every level. Leaders who can articulate effective policies, work well with others, listen to everyone, and then act to build our State's community food system. Dexter Kishida is such a leader. Mahalo!



Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment (AEN)

Re: Testimony in Support of Dexter Kishida for Deputy Ag Chairperson

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Committee Members,

The Kona Coffee Farmers Association without reservation supports the nomination and confirmation of Dexter Kishida for Deputy Agriculture Chairperson. 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 Dexter. He has worked with coffee farmers, assisting the growth of their agribusinesses, and giving their products standing on the national and international stages. He is a leader for positive outcomes on behalf of Kona and Hawaiian coffee.

I am writing to express my dedicated support for Dexter Kishida's nomination to serve as Deputy to the Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. We have witnessed his dedication and passion for promoting Hawaii grown products and producers.

Dexter has a history in agriculture, having collaborated with farmers, and researchers and a leader in various initiatives. He has always advocated for the interests and needs of the local agricultural community, as well as the consumers and the environment. He has been instrumental in developing and implementing innovative programs and policies that enhance the quality, safety, and sustainability of Hawaii's agricultural products.

Dexter is a person of integrity, vision, and collaboration. He has the skills, experience, and knowledge to effectively serve as Deputy to the Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. He will be an asset to the department and to the state of Hawaii. I urge you to confirm his nomination and give him the opportunity to continue his valuable work.

Mahalo nui loa!

Mark Petersen
President



**Testimony Before the Senate Committee on
Agriculture and the Environment**
Wednesday, March 6, 2024; 1:00 PM
Conference Room 224 & Via Videoconference
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Support for GM593

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

On behalf of the Kaua'i Chamber, I write to strongly endorse the nomination of Dexter Kishida as Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Agriculture, for a term to expire on December 31, 2026. Mr. Kishida's distinguished career and his commitment to fostering agricultural innovation and sustainability resonate deeply with the missions of both the Kaua'i Chamber and the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Kishida's innovative work in community resilience, urban agriculture, and his strategic initiatives aimed at food security align with HDOA's objectives of growing Hawai'i's future through sustainable and diversified agriculture. His background in developing partnerships across public and private sectors is especially relevant to the HDOA's goal of promoting Hawai'i-grown products and supporting the state's farmers in overcoming the challenges posed by high energy costs and the need for large capital investments in ag-tech. He understands the importance of sustainable farming practices and the role of technology in achieving food self-sufficiency and economic prosperity for Hawai'i.

Given the strategic importance of agriculture to Hawai'i's economy and environment, Dexter Kishida's nomination represents a timely and significant opportunity to advance the state's agricultural development. His leadership and vision will undoubtedly continue to contribute to the HDOA's mission, addressing key issues such as food security, sustainable growth, and the promotion of Hawai'i-grown products.

We believe that Mr. Kishida is the right choice to help lead the Department of Agriculture towards a future where Hawai'i's agricultural sector is resilient and thriving. We respectfully urge the Senate Committee on Agriculture and the Environment to support his nomination.

Thank you for considering our endorsement.

Warmest regards,

Mark Perriello
President & CEO

GM-593

Submitted on: 3/5/2024 12:45:29 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/6/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greer Dickson	Testifying for Kokua Hawai'i Foundation	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 5, 2024

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

THE HONORABLE MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR

THE HONORABLE HERBERT M. "TIM" RICHARDS III, VICE CHAIR

GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE DEXTER KISHIDA

SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS DEPUTY TO THE
CHAIRPERSON, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Testimony of Greer Dickson

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

It is my pleasure to provide testimony before the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment, in support of GM593, the confirmation of Mr. Dexter Kishida as Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Agriculture.

I am the Office Manager of Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation

Through our work at Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation we have all experienced and benefited from Mr. Dexter Kishida's leadership and commitment to our collective efforts to strengthen Hawai'i's food systems. His ability to collaborate and build trust with partners is a unique strength and skill set that we critically need at HDOA in this moment of opportunity for us to collectively shift the trajectory of Hawai'i's food systems.

Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation (KHF) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded in 2003 by Kim and Jack Johnson, that supports environmental education in the schools and communities of Hawai'i. KHF provides opportunities that will enhance one's appreciation for and understanding of the environment so that they will be lifelong stewards of the earth. KHF's 'ĀINA In Schools program is a farm to school initiative that connects children to their local land, waters, and food to grow a healthier Hawaii. In addition to encouraging the use of locally grown fruits and vegetables in school meals and snacks, the program includes standards-based nutrition, garden and compost curricula that empower children to grow their own food, make informed food decisions, and reduce waste. This program has also provided professional development training for over 675 educators from 250 schools and organizations throughout Hawai'i and in California.

Through this work I have known Mr. Dexter Kishida to be knowledgeable and articulate. I highly recommend Mr. Dexter Kishida and he will be a tremendous asset to the Department of Agriculture and to the farming and food industries in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Respectfully,

Greer Dickson

Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation

P.O Box 866, Hale'iwa, HI, 96712

**Testimony before the Senate Committee on
Agriculture and the Environment**
Wednesday, March 6, 2024; 1:00 PM
Conference Room 224 & Via Videoconference
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Support for GM593

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

I am writing on behalf of the Kauai Economic Development Board to express our enthusiastic support for Dexter Kishida as Deputy to the Chairperson at the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. Mr. Kishida's deep experience and dedication in building a resilient agriculture sector in Hawaii make him the ideal candidate for this position.

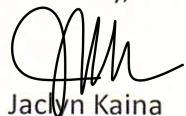
Mr. Kishida has shown exceptional commitment to food security and sustainability throughout his career. From his work as a cafeteria manager, where he prioritized utilizing Hawaii's local agricultural produce for school meals, to his roles in the nonprofit sector and government service, Mr. Kishida has consistently demonstrated his ability to forge partnerships and create strategic plans that benefit all involved parties.

Furthermore, Mr. Kishida's collaborative nature and ability to articulate the needs of the agriculture industry make him an asset. He understands the complex mechanisms of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture's operations, which positions him well to address the challenges faced by Hawaii farmers. Mr. Kishida's passion, expertise, and realistic optimism will be invaluable in achieving the goals set forth in Act 151, SLH 2019, which aim to double local food production and increase exports by 2030.

We wholeheartedly support Mr. Dexter Kishida's nomination, and we believe he will make a significant contribution to the growth and development of Hawaii's agriculture sector. Thank you for considering our endorsement, and we look forward to a continued partnership with the Hawaii State Legislature in supporting this important endeavor.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration of our endorsement.

Sincerely,



Jaclyn Kaina
Executive Director

GM-593

Submitted on: 3/5/2024 1:36:23 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/6/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Montgomery	Testifying for Hawaii Ant Lab	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee Members,

The Hawaii Ant Lab stands in strong support of appointing Dexter Kishida as the Hawaii Department of Agriculture Deputy Chairperson. During his interrim appointment, Mr. Kishida has shown a willingness, ability, and motivation to work towards positive change within the Department. The Hawaii Ant Lab has a long history of partnering with the Department and this partnership has been in decline over the past 2 years and this decline has only accelerated in the past 12 months. Since his interrim appointment, Mr Kishida is one of the few people within the Department's upper management team that has made genuine attempts to communicate and work with HAL and our partners in the invasive species management community. I can assure you that without Mr. Kishida, any remaining partnerships between the Department and the invasive species management community would rapidly become non-existent. His continued appointment lends us hope that we can rebuild functional partnerships with the Department once again.

Mahalo for your time and consideration on this matter.

Michelle Montgomery, Hawaii Ant Lab - Manager



February 29, 2024

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

THE HONORABLE MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR
THE HONORABLE HERBERT M. "TIM" RICHARDS III, VICE CHAIR

GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE DEXTER KISHIDA
SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS DEPUTY TO THE
CHAIRPERSON, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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

Thank you for this opportunity to provide strong support for GM593 to confirm **Dexter Kishida as Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Agriculture**. Please accept this letter on behalf of myself, Keoni Lee, CEO of Hawai'i Investment Ready (HIR), along with select members of HIR's [Food Systems](#) Funder Cohort comprised of 24 Hawai'i investors across philanthropy, government, and private sector committed to investing strategically in food systems change. This hui meets regularly with the facilitation of Hawai'i Investment Ready, a local non-profit focused on building an economy that serves and creates abundance for all in Hawai'i. Collectively, we represent tens of millions of dollars in annual investments in agriculture in Hawai'i.

The Funder Cohort represents high-potential innovators across the food system value chain and funders from government, philanthropic, and private sectors who share a common objective of a viable and resilient local food system. The urgent problems we face, and solutions we hold in Hawai'i require more resources than the current system of funding can or will provide. Our funder cohort is committed to leveraging our resources to seed possibilities for deeper systems-level collaboration and problem-solving.

As a part of our economy making significant investments in a local and regenerative food system, we offer our highest support of Dexter Kishida's nomination. Mr. Kishida is a frequent collaborator with many of our members and participates in our group. He brings a wealth of experience and knowledge of the field from his many years of public service and our hui benefits greatly from his leadership and contributions to our collective effort to strengthen Hawai'i's food systems. We have all experienced and benefited from his leadership and commitment to our collective efforts to strengthen Hawai'i's food systems. His ability to collaborate and build trust with partners is a unique strength and skill set that we critically need at HDOA in this moment of opportunity to

collectively shift the trajectory of Hawai'i's food systems. It is critical to have experienced leaders to meet the state's goal of doubling local production as a key element of economic self-sufficiency and sustainability for Hawaii.

Mr. Kishida brings a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities in moving complex private, federal, and state funding into food & agriculture and has built a trusted and respected brand of leadership within the sector and our communities. He understands small farmers' difficulties and knows how to support their critical contributions toward scaling production. His confirmation would bring invaluable perspective and more and stronger partnerships to the table for the DOA's work in the food system.

HIR and our Food Systems Funder Cohort are tremendously grateful for Mr. Kishida's contributions to our work and Hawaii's Food Systems. We value his knowledge, diligence, thoughtfulness, creativity, and tireless advocacy. He will be a tremendous asset to the Department of Agriculture and to the farming and food industries in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

We respectfully request your support of **GM593**. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keoni Lee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Keoni" being more prominent than the last name "Lee".

Keoni Lee, Hawai'i Investment Ready
Hawai'i Investment Ready
44-527A Kane'ohe Bay Drive
Kane'ohe, HI 96744

Kim Johnson, Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation, President & CEO
Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation
PO Box 866, Hale'iwa, HI 96712

Abigail Perrin, Nuestro Futuro Foundation, Executive Director
Nuestro Futuro Foundation
PO Box 578
Haiku, Hawaii 96708

Mary Spadaro, Slow Money Hawai'i



Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment (AEN)

**Re: GM 593 Testimony in Support of Dexter Kishida
Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Agriculture**

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

Synergistic Hawaii Ag Council stands in **strong support** of the nomination of Dexter Kishida.

SHAC is a non-profit trade consortium representing 1,500 coffee macadamia, papaya, and floriculture agribusinesses. We assist our commodities with responding to pests and diseases, increasing production at the farmgate and developing markets for our Hawaii origin agriculture products.

Mr. Kishida's **committed** work on behalf of Hawaii agriculture is readily apparent in his experience with farm-to-school programs. His efforts in the school system has ensured that the next generation of keiki will grow up with an appreciation for local food crops.

His efforts to secure Federal funding on behalf of the state helped drive local food programs forward and secure stability for Hawaii growers. In SHAC's opinion, such **leadership and experience** in seeking and securing Federal funding for Hawaii programs is a rare and extremely beneficial skill. We would like to his proactive management in a leadership position.

His work with stakeholders across the spectrum is appreciated. The ability to liaise with both public and private clientele is also a strength.

We find him to be **professional and capable**, and ask your speedy approval of his nomination.

Mahalo nui loa!

Suzanne Shriner
Administrator

GM-593

Submitted on: 3/5/2024 3:30:12 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/6/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Monet Bisch	Testifying for Kokua Hawai'i Foundation	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

It is my pleasure to provide testimony before the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment, in support of GM593, the confirmation of Mr. Dexter Kishida as Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Agriculture.

I am the Communications & Outreach Manager of Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation

Through our work at Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation we have all experienced and benefited from Mr. Dexter Kishida's leadership and commitment to our collective efforts to strengthen Hawai'i's food systems. His ability to collaborate and build trust with partners is a unique strength and skill set that we critically need at HDOA in this moment of opportunity for us to collectively shift the trajectory of Hawai'i's food systems.

Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation (KHF) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded in 2003 by Kim and Jack Johnson, that supports environmental education in the schools and communities of Hawai'i. KHF provides opportunities that will enhance one's appreciation for and understanding of the environment so that they will be lifelong stewards of the earth. KHF's 'ĀINA In Schools program is a farm to school initiative that connects children to their local land, waters, and food to grow a healthier Hawaii. In addition to encouraging the use of locally grown fruits and vegetables in school meals and snacks, the program includes standards-based nutrition, garden and compost curricula that empower children to grow their own food, make informed food decisions, and reduce waste. This program has also provided professional development training for over 675 educators from 250 schools and organizations throughout Hawai'i and in California.

Through this work I have known Mr. Dexter Kishida to be knowledgeable and articulate. I highly recommend Mr. Dexter Kishida and he will be a tremendous asset to the Department of Agriculture and to the farming and food industries in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Respectfully,

Monet N. Bisch

Kōkua Hawai‘i Foundation

P.O. Box 866, Hale‘iwa, HI 96712

GM-593

Submitted on: 3/5/2024 5:53:58 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/6/2024 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

As a coffee and avocado farmer on Hawaii Island, I strongly support the nomination of Dexter Kishida as Deputy to the Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. Mr. Kishida's commitment to supporting the HDOA's goal of promoting and protecting the integrity of Hawaii-Grown products and advancing the economic interests of Hawaii farmers is recognized and appreciated by the State's farming community. I urge the Committee to support his nomination.

Thank you.

Bruce Corker, Rancho Aloha, Hawaii County



Officers

Kaipo Kekona
State President

Anabella Bruch
Vice-President

Maureen Datta
Secretary

Reba Lopez
Treasurer

Chapter Presidents

Clarence Baber
Kohala, Hawaii

Odysseus Yacalis
East Hawaii

Puna, Hawaii

Andrea Drayer
Ka'u, Hawaii

Kona, Hawaii

Fawn Helekahi-Burns
Hana, Maui

Mason Scharer
Haleakala, Maui

Kaiea Medeiros
Mauna Kahalawai,
Maui

Kaipo Kekona
Lahaina, Maui

Rufina Kaaui
Molokai

Negus Manna
Lana'i

India Clark
North Shore, O'ahu

Christian Zuckerman
Wai'anae, O'ahu

Ted Radovich
Waimanalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura
Honolulu, O'ahu

Natalie Urminska
Kauai

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

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

Hawaii Farmers Union wholeheartedly supports GM593 and the confirmation of Dexter Kishida as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Kishida's varied experience and dedication to enhancing our local food systems are unmatched. His tenure as the Food Security and Sustainability Program Manager for the City and County of Honolulu showcases his capability to secure millions in funding and foster robust partnerships that reinforce our local food infrastructure. His efforts have not only advanced food security but have also cultivated vital connections within the community and among various stakeholders, demonstrating his commitment to Hawaii's agricultural and food sustainability.

Moreover, Dexter Kishida's previous role as the Farm to School Coordinator within the Hawaii Department of Education underscores his innovative approach to integrating local food sources into our schools, thus promoting healthier eating habits among students and supporting local farmers.

His work in procuring substantial funding and implementing strategic programs for food system grants and agriculture development reflects his adeptness in navigating both federal and local funding avenues to benefit Hawaii's agricultural sector. Mr. Kishida's exceptional leadership, comprehensive knowledge of agricultural systems, and proven track record of community engagement and development make him an ideal candidate for this position.

The Hawaii Farmers Union believes that under Mr. Kishida's guidance, the Department of Agriculture will flourish, furthering the viability and sustainability of farming in Hawaii.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF



THE SENATE
KA 'AHA KENEKOA

THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2024

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

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

Wednesday, March 6, 2024 1:00 PM
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street


RE: GM 593

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 350 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.

The Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association (HFNA) **SUPPORTS Dexter** Kishida for the position of Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture.

We believe Dexter Kishida is a good choice for the position of Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture.

If you have any questions at this time, I would be happy to discuss them and 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

March 5, 2024

RE: *Letter of Support*-Mr. Dexter Kishida confirmation as Deputy to the Chairperson,
Department of Agriculture.

Aloha Kākou,

I am writing to express strong support of Mr. Dexter Kishida's confirmation as Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Agriculture (HDOA). My name is Ted Radovich and I have served for 18 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.

Mr. Kishida has been a strong and effective advocate for agriculture and food systems in Hawaii. He demonstrated pro-active and inclusive leadership in the Farm to School and Food Security and Sustainability programs. He understands the state's dependence on the importation of food and the challenges in increasing state-wide food sustainability. He has also demonstrated a good working relationship with HDOA Chair Sharon Hurd and the Departments stakeholders. I am confident he will serve our agricultural industry well, and **I strongly support Mr. Kishida's appointment to the position of Deputy to the HDOA Chairperson so he can continue to serve and advance Hawaii's diversified agriculture industry.**

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted Radovich". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Ted Radovich, Ph.D., Extension Specialist

GM-593

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 7:22:43 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/6/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Bence	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

I am a disabled, certified organic, farmer from Kula, Maui with farm partnerships on Oahu. I am writing in support for Dexter Kishida's confirmation as deputy chair as he has the full support of Chair Hurd. Sharon is an amazing asset to Hawai'i, she works hard and deserves a great deputy like Dexter. The time that he was at the County of Honolulu I was thinking that he did a great job that was inspirational to the other counties. He has been doing good since moving to HDOA and his experience in Farm to School at HDOE can help the state fulfill the farm to school goal.

Mahalo

Robert Bence
Farmer
Hawai'i Sustainable Farms
PO Box 901353
Kula, HI. 96790

GM-593

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 12:33:10 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/6/2024 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support Mr. Dexter Kishida as Depity to Chair, State Department of Agriculture. Mahalo

GM-593

Submitted on: 2/29/2024 10:02:14 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/6/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauren Nelson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I have had the pleasure of working with Dexter Kishida for years through his role as the Food Security and Sustainability Program Manager for the City and County of Honolulu, and through my experiences working with Mr. Kishida, I strongly recommend his nomination to serve as Deputy to the Chairperson of the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Kishida has a rare ability to bridge stakeholders, bringing public, private, and non-profit leaders towards the common goal of strengthening our agricultural economy in Hawai'i while improving food access for local people. Through his work with the Department of Education, Mr. Kishida has navigated some of the most complicated public systems and found win-win solutions that have provided nutritious locally-grown to our DOE students, while supporting local food producers and increased food literacy.

With his strong understanding of local food systems, household nutrition security, and the key supports needed to promote our agricultural economy, I believe we will see a healthier, more thriving Hawai'i with Dexter Kishida as Deputy to the Chairperson of the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture. I appreciate your consideration, and strongly recommend my support of 593 GM.

Mahalo nui,

Lauren Nelson

Makawao, HI

GM-593

Submitted on: 2/28/2024 1:40:03 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/6/2024 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am in support of Dexter Kishida as the Deputy to the Chair person for Dept of Ag. Dexter is a great Ag supporter.

Dean M. Matsukawa
Honolulu, Hi 96816
February 27, 2024

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
State Capitol Room 224
Testimony GM 593

Aloha Senator Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

I am pleased to submit this letter in strong support of the nomination of Dexter Kishida for Deputy of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Kishida has good knowledge of agriculture and government through his work with the City and County of Honolulu and the Department of Education. In the short time that he has been at the Department of Agriculture he has gained a good understanding of the Department of Agriculture. Mr. Kishida also represented the department before legislative committees and has done an excellent job. I believe his knowledge, management skills, hard work and ability to get along with people make him an outstanding choice for this position.

As the former Administrator for the Agricultural Loan Division of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture and currently as an 89-day hire I have worked with Mr. Kishida. I have directly observed his management skills and his vision to enhance and grow Hawaii's agriculture industry.

Mr. Kishida is a valuable asset to the state and will greatly benefit the Hawaii Department of Agriculture going forward. I respectfully ask the Committee to vote favorably on the confirmation of Dexter Kishida to the post of Deputy of the Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo,

Dean M. Matsukawa

GM-593

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 6:13:50 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/6/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ethan West	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the confirmation of Mr. Dexter Kishida to this position.

GM-593

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 7:47:00 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/6/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Debbie Millikan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the confirmation of Dexter Kishida as Deputy to the Chairperson in the Department of Agriculture. I have known Dexter for almost 20 years from his work in a school cafeteria to leading Farm to School within School Food Services and believe he plays a crucial role in the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

GM-593

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 9:35:50 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/6/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg Takeshima	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of GM 593 appointing Dexter Kishida as Deputy to the Chairperson for the Department of Agriculture.

I've had the privilege of working with Mr. Kishida over the last 6 months. In that short amount of time Deputy nominee Kishida has worked tirelessly, initially as the Acting Plant Industry Administrator, then as the Deputy nominee, to learn all aspects of the Department of Agriculture. He has shown an amazing ability to understand, communicate, and thoroughly analyze extremely complicated subjects ranging from agricultural loans to pesticides regulations and the ever-present bio-security issues we've been tackling at the legislature this year.

Deputy nominee Kishida regularly has his door open to discuss issues with his staff to better understand many of the Department's issues and concerns related to ongoing implementation of all things agriculture. His ability to gather information, willingness to discuss issues and listen, 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 Mr. Kishida as Deputy to the Chairperson.

I strongly support Mr. Kishida and ask the committee to confirm him.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Greg Y. Takeshima

Pesticides Program Manager

Hawaii Department of Agriculture, Pesticides Branch

GM-593

Submitted on: 2/28/2024 10:25:47 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/6/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carol Kwan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the appointment of Dexter Kishida as Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Agriculture. I've spoken with my friends who work with invasive species and have been told that he agrees with many of their points. To me, combatting invasive species should be one of HDOA's highest priorities because Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle and Little Fire Ant are currently costing farmers and nurseries tens if not hundreds of thousands of dollars in lost inventory and pest control expenses. We need people with the right attitude leading HDOA.

I am an ISA Certified Arborist and have my own consulting company in the industry.

Mahalo,

Carol Kwan

GM-593

Submitted on: 2/28/2024 8:31:00 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/6/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Suiso	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support Dexter Kishida as Deputy Director. He has been dealing with Hawaii Food systems and government agencies longer than most others. He understands the big picture well.

He is also approachable and responds well to those of us in production.

Mark Suiso

Hawaii Tropical Fruit Growers

Hawaii Master Food Preservers

Makaha Mangoes

GM-593

Submitted on: 2/29/2024 4:13:39 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/6/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
penny levin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha;

I support the appointment of Dexter Kishida as deputy director to the Department of Agriculture. He has been a strong supporter of local and regenerative agriculture and food security and will serve the department and Hawaii's farmers well.

Mahalo

Penny Levin

Maui

GM-593

Submitted on: 3/1/2024 10:26:57 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/6/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Annie Liu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support Dexter Kishida's confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee for a term to expire 12-31-2026

GM-593

Submitted on: 3/1/2024 4:08:58 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/6/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
earl yamamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

Testimony in **SUPPORT** of confirming Dexter Kishida as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture. Since his appointment, Dexter has been diligently and tirelessly familiarizing himself with the duties and responsibilities of the Department and also being the principal testifier before the Legislature in strong defense and support of Hawaii's agricultural operations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Written Testimony
Mary Alice Evans
Waimanalo, Hawaii

GM 593

Nomination of **Dexter Kishida** for Deputy to the Chairperson,
Department of Agriculture

Senate Committee on Agriculture

Wednesday March 6, 2024, 1:00 pm
Conference Room 224

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Senate Committee on
Agriculture.

Please **support** the nomination of **Dexter Kishida** for Deputy Director of the State
Department of Agriculture.

Dexter Kishida has demonstrated an understanding of the economics of agriculture
which is key to making farming and ranching profitable enough to keep and attract
producers in Hawaii. Dexter has worked to expand local markets for Hawaii-grown
products. He understands that land, water and capital need to be affordable to farmers.

Dexter is a good listener and a good team builder, working with both internal and
external stakeholders. He volunteers to take the lead in bringing people together to solve
agriculture problems and put together new projects to support Hawaii's agricultural
businesses.

Please **support** the confirmation of **Dexter Kishida** for Deputy to the Chair of the
Department of Agriculture.

GM-593

Submitted on: 3/3/2024 8:35:16 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/6/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stacy Sugai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

Thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony in support of Dexter Kishida becoming Deputy to the Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

I am a small commercial pig farmer in Waianae. I met Dexter approximately 5 years ago when he was working with the DOE. I was impressed at Dexter's knowledge about farming along with it's struggles, his desire to learn more about various local commodities, and his ability to work with people.

I've continued to have the priviledge of interacting with Dexter throughout the years. He has the ability to pull a group of people together from various sectors to work for a common goal. That's what he did to try to help a group of hog producers. We are very grateful for all that he has done to assist us.

I believe Dexter has a good grasp of Hawaii's agriculture industry. More importantly, he has practical ideas on how to grow and support the industry. I would have great hope for our industry and believe we could be come more food sustainable with someone like Dexter in this sort of leadership capacity.

Please approve Dexter as Deputy.

Mahalo,

Stacy Sugai

GM-593

Submitted on: 3/3/2024 8:48:07 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/6/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patsy Kaneshiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Committe,

My name is Patsy Kaneshiro. I am a 3rd generation farmer in Waianae. I was raised on a vegetable farm and have been a hog producer for over 35 years. I am passionate about farming and agriculuture; it's been my life's work.

I would like to encourage you to please approve Dexter as Deputy to the Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. Dexter has a vision for the future of Agriculture. He is someone who thinks ahead. He is very easy to work with and gets things done!

Thank you for allowing me to submit this testimony.

Patsy Kaneshiro

GM-593

Submitted on: 3/4/2024 9:36:24 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/6/2024 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

It is my pleasure to provide testimony before the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment in strong support of GM593, the confirmation of Mr. Dexter Kishida as Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Agriculture.

As a local food systems expert with a keen sense of collaboration, Mr. Kishida is focused on building an economy that serves and creates abundance for all in Hawai‘i. I have worked with him professionally for several years, and have always admired his depth of knowledge, combined with positive spirit, making him a truly valuable contributor.

I am a member of the Hawaii Investment Ready food systems funder cohort, and Mr. Kishida is a frequent collaborator and participant to our group. He brings a wealth of experience and agricultural knowledge from his many years of public service and we all greatly benefit from his compassionate leadership and contributions.

Mr. Dexter Kishida will be a tremendous asset to the Department of Agriculture and to the farming and food industries in Hawaii, and I strongly support his appointment.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Respectfully,

Lisa Kimura

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

MARCH 6, 2024
1:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 224

TESTIMONY ON GM 593

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS DEPUTY TO THE
CHAIRPERSON, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, GUBENATORIAL NOMINEE,
DEXTER KISHIDA

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

I am Isaac Maeda, DVM and writing in support of Dexter Kishida's nomination for Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture.

Dexter's experiences including Food Security & Sustainability Manager for the Office of Climate Change, Resilience, & Sustainability, City and County of Honolulu, gives him insight and knowledge of food issues facing the state and agriculture. He is capable of working with agriculture industry producers, stakeholders and other government agencies. He has demonstrated the ability to address issues such as resources, production, regulations, and thereby develop policies to support and expand agriculture in Hawaii.

As acting Deputy to the Chairperson Dexter has actively worked to acquire knowledge of the Department's activities, and operations. His positive attitude benefits agriculture and the department. Dexter Kishida will serve well as Deputy to the Chairperson

Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with my testimony.

March 6, 2024

The Honorable Mike Gabbard
And Members
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 224
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Subject: Testimony in Support of the Confirmation As The Deputy to the Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, Dexter Kishida, For a Term to Expire 12-07-2026

Aloha Chair Gabbard and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment. I am writing (in my personal capacity as an individual) in support of the appointment of Mr. Dexter Kishida as Deputy to the Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA). I work with Mr. Kishida in a professional capacity as a Planner with the HDOA. I have had the opportunity to work with Mr. Kishida at the City and County of Honolulu when he was the Food Security and Sustainability Program Manager, and I was at the City Department of Transportation Services as the former Parking Branch Chief.

Mr. Kishida has been with the HDOA since the fall of 2023 as an acting Administrator in the Plant Industry Division and most recent, as the Acting Deputy. He has experience with the Hawai'i Department of Education as the Farm-to-School Coordinator advocating for HDOA programs for sustainable food systems, food security and food self-sufficiency. He brings a thoughtful, deliberative, and fresh approach to challenging issues of suppressing invasive species, aging farmers and ranchers, personnel shortages, and many more, if given the opportunity to be the HDOA Deputy.

Lastly, Mr. Kishida and our Chairperson Sharon Hurd are a great team; both work well together with the HDOA Managers, Administrators and staff. Mr. Kishida's forte is collaborating with the Ag Industry organizations, nonprofits, government affiliations, community and the farmers, ranchers, and customers in the ag industry. His easy going personality quickly gains trust with an opinionated audience, for he is a quick learner, agrees to disagree with adversaries, and especially approachable with the HDOA staff. I continue to look forward to working in the future with a great leadership team of the Chair and the Mr. Kishida as the Deputy, if you all provide him with this opportunity.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of the nomination of Mr. Dexter Kishida as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the HDOA.

Respectfully submitted,



Rae Gee

TESTIMONY OF DANE K. WICKER
IN SUPPORT OF
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 593

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

I am writing in SUPPORT of GM593, Mr. Dexter Kishida for the Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Agriculture, for a term to expire 12-31-2026. I have had the privilege of working with Dexter during his tenure since being appointed to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. I've come to learn of his experiences as the First Food Security and Sustainability Program Manager with the City and County of Honolulu, and I have consistently been impressed by his dedication, expertise, and innovative approach to addressing complex challenges.

During his time as the Program Manager, Mr. Kishida demonstrated exceptional leadership skills in developing and implementing programs aimed at securing federal funding, City resources, and philanthropic support. He successfully led a team of staff members in executing grants and partnerships that significantly strengthened Honolulu's fragile localized food system. Mr. Kishida's ability to forge strong collaborations with key stakeholders, including organizations like Kamehameha Schools, Hawaii Invented Ready, Hawaii Food Founders Hui, Hawaii Public Health Institute, and the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement, as well as federal and state agencies, was instrumental in advancing the City's food security objectives.

One of Mr. Kishida's notable accomplishments was the comprehensive mapping of the Oahu Food System through 32 regional place-based focus groups. This initiative laid the foundation for the development of short-, mid-, and long-term plans to enhance local food production. Additionally, Mr. Kishida spearheaded initiatives such as the Oahu Good Food Program, which aimed to increase local purchasing among 35 large institutions, and the Opportunity Youth Agriculture Workforce Development program, which provided justice-involved youth with opportunities in agriculture. He also played a key role in establishing a network of small animal processing facilities to support local producers.

Mr. Kishida's commitment to community engagement and equity is commendable. He initiated language assistance programs for grant applications, conducted regional technical assistance sessions on engaging government, and organized webinars to provide visual walkthroughs of government systems, ensuring that all stakeholders could participate effectively in food security efforts.

Prior to his role with the City and County of Honolulu, Mr. Kishida served as the Farm to School Coordinator for the Department of Education, where he oversaw initiatives across 46 schools on Oahu and Kauai. His efforts resulted in significant achievements, including the development of a long-term farm-to-school plan, increased local spending in the department's institutional market, and the successful implementation of the Harvest of the Month program, benefiting 100,000 students statewide.

In summary, Mr. Kishida is an exceptional leader and visionary in the field of food security and sustainability. His track record of success, coupled with his passion for community engagement and equity, make him an invaluable asset to any organization or project. I wholeheartedly recommend Mr. Kishida for any role where his expertise and dedication can make a meaningful impact.

GM-593

Submitted on: 3/4/2024 1:56:15 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/6/2024 1:00:00 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 593 for Mr. Dexter Kishida's nomination to serve as Deputy to the Chairperson for the Department of Agriculture.

I've had the pleasure to work with Mr. Kishida for over 6 months, and it is clear how dedicated and passionate he is to serving both the agriculture industry and our community. He always has a positive attitude and I believe he will be great in his role as Deputy to the Chairperson. I strongly support his nomination.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in his support.

GM-593

Submitted on: 3/4/2024 4:06:39 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/6/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marian Tsuji	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support Dexter Kishida's nomination as Deputy to the Chair of the Department of Agriculture. Dexter's breadth of experience in both Food Security and Sustainability, government operations and familiarity with the federal grant making process make him an ideal candidate to help move Hawaii's agricultural industry forward.

Thank you for your consideration.

Marian Tsuji

March 4, 2024

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
The Honorable Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

**Re: In Support of the Nomination of Dexter Kishia to the Position of
Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Agriculture
GM 593
Hearing Date/Time: March 6, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.**

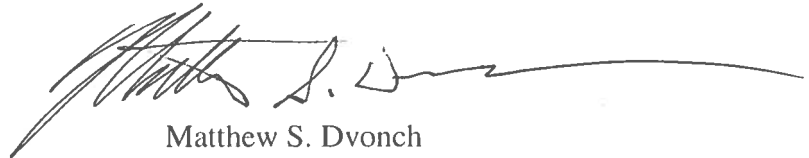
Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Senate Committee on
Agriculture and Environment:

I write in strong support of the nomination of Dexter Kishida to the position of Deputy to
the Chairperson, Department of Agriculture (DOA). I am submitting this testimony in my
personal capacity.

Mr. Kishida has spent his career working toward a more food secure Hawai'i in both the
non-profit and government sectors. I believe his experience in food security and sustainability
with the Department of Education and the City and County of Honolulu gives him the tools
necessary to be an effective deputy to the chairperson at the Department of Agriculture.

In the short time I've known Mr. Kishida, I've found him to be well-informed,
professional, and easy to work with. He is exceptionally well-qualified for this position and I
urge the committee to support his nomination. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this
testimony.

Sincerely,



Matthew S. Dvonch

March 6, 2024
1:00 PM
Conference Room 224
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Testimony in Support of GM 593

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

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

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

My name is Scott Enright and I am writing in strong support of Dexter Kishida for confirmation as Deputy at the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA). As someone who has served as both Deputy and Chairperson at HDOA I believe I have a unique perspective as to what skill set it takes for an individual to succeed as a political appointee in state government.

The first skill set necessary is the ability to garner the trust of the employees of HDOA and help lead them in accomplishing their many and varied missions.

The second skill set is the ability to negotiate the politics of the executive branch and the legislative branch of state government.

The third skill set is the ability to be the voice and face of the state's agricultural community.

These truly varied skill sets are not often found in one person. Working with Dexter over the years in both state government and in county government, he has demonstrated that he has honed these three skill sets. Therefore, I hold the position that Dexter will excel in the Deputy position and do good work for HDOA, the State, and our agricultural community.

Again, I am in strong support of this confirmation.

Sincerely,



Scott Enright

GM-593

Submitted on: 3/4/2024 6:08:26 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/6/2024 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I enthusiastically support Dexter Kishida for the position of Deputy to the Chairperson in Department of Agriculture. Dexter has an incredible reputation within the food systems community and has and will undoubtedly do a great job in this position.

-Alex Narrajos

GM-593

Submitted on: 3/4/2024 7:49:36 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/6/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joseph Wat	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support for Dexter Kishida in this position.

His work, advocacy, and efficacy in past roles with the City and County and Department of Education give me high hopes for improvements in and better advocacy for the Department of Agriculture.

GM-593

Submitted on: 3/4/2024 10:24:08 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/6/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mae Nakahata	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly support Mr. Kishida's Nomination. I believe he is committed to the success of the industry

GM-593

Submitted on: 3/4/2024 11:00:15 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/6/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Warren Watanabe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of Dexter Kishida as Deputy to the Chair for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. Mahalo.

GM-593

Submitted on: 3/5/2024 9:31:56 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/6/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
M. Loke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Gabbard and Honorable Members of the Committee,

Testimony in Support of GM 593 Consideration and Confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, Dexter Kishida.

I have had the privilege of knowing Mr. Kishida for over a decade since his initial involvement in the local Farm to School movement. I am pleased to attest to his positive character and dedication. His amiable disposition and “can-do” attitude are assets that I believe will benefit the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Wednesday, March 6, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
Hawaii State Capitol

**Personal Testimony of Valerie M. Kato, Deputy Director
Department of Health
In SUPPORT of Governor's Message 593**

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

My name is Valerie Kato and I stand in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Dexter Kishida to serve as Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture. As a deputy attorney general, I represented the Department of Agriculture. Based on that experience, I believe Mr. Kishida would be an exceptional asset to the department.

Mr. Kishida has had a long career in public service working towards building a more food secure Hawaii. This includes working on the City and County of Honolulu's Food Security and Sustainability Program, serving as the Farm to School Coordinator, School Food Services Supervisor for the DOE, and being the School Food Coordinator for the Kokua Hawaii Foundation. These varied experiences give Mr. Kishida an excellent administrative background and will help him at the department as he works towards innovating Hawaii's agriculture industry, including achieving the department's goals in its important aquaculture strategic plan.

Mr. Kishida is an intelligent leader who is able to collaborate effectively with creative solutions to address challenging problems. The Department of Agriculture is fortunate to be able to harness his refreshing optimism and hard work to benefit the farming community and all the people of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments in support of Mr. Kishida, nominee for the Deputy to the Chairperson for the Department of Agriculture.

GM-593

Submitted on: 3/5/2024 12:41:53 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/6/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelly Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 5, 2024

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

THE HONORABLE MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR

THE HONORABLE HERBERT M. "TIM" RICHARDS III, VICE CHAIR

GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE DEXTER KISHIDA

SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS DEPUTY TO THE
CHAIRPERSON, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Testimony of Kelly Perry

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

It is my pleasure to provide testimony before the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment, in support of GM593, the confirmation of Mr. Dexter Kishida as Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Agriculture.

I am the Volunteer and Partnership Director of Kōkua Hawai‘i Foundation

Through our work at Kōkua Hawai‘i Foundation we have all experienced and benefited from Mr. Dexter Kishida’s leadership and commitment to our collective efforts to strengthen Hawai‘i’s food systems. His ability to collaborate and build trust with partners is a unique strength and skill set that we critically need at HDOA in this moment of opportunity for us to collectively shift the trajectory of Hawai‘i’s food systems.

Kōkua Hawai‘i Foundation (KHF) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded in 2003 by Kim and Jack Johnson, that supports environmental education in the schools and communities of Hawai‘i. KHF provides opportunities that will enhance one's appreciation for and understanding of the environment so that they will be lifelong stewards of the earth. KHF’s ‘ĀINA In Schools program is a farm to school initiative that connects children to their local land, waters, and food

to grow a healthier Hawaii. In addition to encouraging the use of locally grown fruits and vegetables in school meals and snacks, the program includes standards-based nutrition, garden and compost curricula that empower children to grow their own food, make informed food decisions, and reduce waste. This program has also provided professional development training for over 675 educators from 250 schools and organizations throughout Hawai'i and in California.

Through this work I have known Mr. Dexter Kishida to be knowledgeable and articulate. I highly recommend Mr. Dexter Kishida and he will be a tremendous asset to the Department of Agriculture and to the farming and food industries in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Respectfully,

Kelly Perry

Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation

66-249 Kamehameha Hwy

Haleiwa, HI 96712

GM-593

Submitted on: 3/5/2024 12:45:42 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/6/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mackenna Cady	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I recommend Mr. Dexter Kishida for Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Agriculture.

GM-593

Submitted on: 3/5/2024 12:55:19 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/6/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruth Holmberg	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha to the Committee Members

As a member of the Kokua Hawaii Foundation's Board of Directors and as a former principal at Sunset Beach Elementary School, I have had the pleasure of knowing and working with Mr. Dexter Kishida. I believe him to be an excellent candidate for the position of Deputy to the Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

He has been dilligent in seeking solutions and support for the many organizations who are seeking to provide a more sustainable solution for Hawaii's food systems. When I knew Dexter as a principal, he was working within the School Food Services division of the Department of Education. He was innovative yet respectful of the various programs and schools he encountered. Since that time, he has expanded his experieinces and skills and offers a background well suited to the position. Collaboration and respect builds trust. I see Dexter Kishida as having the unique strengths that we need to move forward.

Thank you for this opportunity to endorse Mr. Dexter Kishida.

Mahalo,

Ruth Holmberg

GM-593

Submitted on: 3/5/2024 1:15:26 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/6/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Jeffers-Fabro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 5, 2024

Testimony of Lisa C. Jeffers-Fabro

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

It is my pleasure to provide testimony before the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment, in support of GM593, the confirmation of Mr. Dexter Kishida as Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Agriculture.

I am the Waste Reduction Program Coordinator of Kōkua Hawai`i Foundation.

Through our work at Kōkua Hawai`i Foundation we have all experienced and benefited from Mr. Dexter Kishida's leadership and commitment to our collective efforts to strengthen Hawai`i's food systems. His ability to collaborate and build trust with partners is a unique strength and skill set that we critically need at HDOA in this moment of opportunity for us to collectively shift the trajectory of Hawai`i's food systems.

Kōkua Hawai`i Foundation (KHF) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded in 2003 by Kim and Jack Johnson, that supports environmental education in the schools and communities of Hawai`i. KHF provides opportunities that will enhance one's appreciation for and understanding of the environment so that they will be lifelong stewards of the earth. KHF's 'ĀINA In Schools program is a farm to school initiative that connects children to their local land, waters, and food to grow a healthier Hawai`i. In addition to encouraging the use of locally grown fruits and vegetables in school meals and snacks, the program includes standards-based nutrition, garden and compost curricula that empower children to grow their own food, make informed food decisions, and reduce waste. This program has also provided professional development training for over 675 educators from 250 schools and organizations throughout Hawai`i and in California.

Through this work I have known Mr. Dexter Kishida to be knowledgeable and articulate. I highly recommend Mr. Dexter Kishida and he will be a tremendous asset to the Department of Agriculture and to the farming and food industries in Hawai`i.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Respectfully,

Lisa C. Jeffers-Fabro

Kōkua Hawai`i Foundation

66-249 Kamehameha Hwy, Haleiwa, HI 96712

GM-593

Submitted on: 3/5/2024 2:28:14 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/6/2024 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I would like to express my strong support for Dexter Kishida to continue to serve as Deputy to the Chair of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Kishida is dedicated to the success of Hawaii agriculture, responsive to the needs of farmers and ranchers, has a pleasant demeanor, and is easy to work with.

I hope you will confirm his appointment. Thank you.

GM-593

Submitted on: 3/5/2024 3:00:30 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/6/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janice Staab	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 5, 2024

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

THE HONORABLE MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR

THE HONORABLE HERBERT M. "TIM" RICHARDS III, VICE CHAIR

GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE DEXTER KISHIDA

SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS DEPUTY TO THE
CHAIRPERSON, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Testimony of Janice Staab

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

It is my pleasure to provide testimony before the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment, in support of GM593, the confirmation of Mr. Dexter Kishida as Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Agriculture.

I am the Program Specialist of the Kokua Hawaii Foundation

Through our work at Kōkua Hawai‘i Foundation we have all experienced and benefited from Mr. Dexter Kishida’s leadership and commitment to our collective efforts to strengthen Hawai‘i’s food systems. His ability to collaborate and build trust with partners is a unique strength and skill set that we critically need at HDOA in this moment of opportunity for us to collectively shift the trajectory of Hawai‘i’s food systems.

Kōkua Hawai‘i Foundation (KHF) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded in 2003 by Kim and Jack Johnson, that supports environmental education in the schools and communities of Hawai‘i. KHF provides opportunities that will enhance one's appreciation for and understanding of the environment so that they will be lifelong stewards of the earth. KHF’s ‘ĀINA In Schools program is a farm to school initiative that connects children to their local land, waters, and food to grow a healthier Hawaii. In addition to encouraging the use of locally grown fruits and vegetables in school meals and snacks, the program includes standards-based nutrition, garden and compost curricula that empower children to grow their own food, make informed food decisions, and reduce waste. This program has also provided professional development training for over 675 educators from 250 schools and organizations throughout Hawai‘i and in California.

Through this work I have known Mr. Dexter Kishida to be knowledgeable and articulate. I highly recommend Mr. Dexter Kishida and he will be a tremendous asset to the Department of Agriculture and to the farming and food industries in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Respectfully,

Janice Staab

Kokua Hawaii Foundation

66-249 Kamehameha Hwy, Haleiwa, HI 96712

GM-593

Submitted on: 3/5/2024 3:57:17 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/6/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lydi Morgan Bernal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I **strongly support** the confirmation of Dexter Kishida as Deputy to the Chairperson of the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture.

Dexter is highly capable, compassionate, and just the right person to help lead HDOA in strengthening Hawai'i's local food systems and agriculture sector at this critical time.

Mahalo nui for this opportunity to testify!

GM-593

Submitted on: 3/5/2024 4:51:41 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/6/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bryce Sprecher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We have all experienced and benefited from Dexter’s leadership and commitment to our collective efforts to strengthen Hawai‘i’s food systems. His ability to collaborate and build trust with partners is a unique strength and skill set that we critically need at HDOA in this moment of opportunity for us to collectively shift the trajectory of Hawai‘i’s food systems. Please join us in supporting his confirmation.

GM-593

Submitted on: 3/5/2024 5:50:36 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/6/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathleen Ho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in my individual capacity in support of the nomination and confirmation of Dexter K. Kishida to serve as the Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Agriculture.

Dexter's extensive efforts towards food security and public policy experience makes in the ideal choice as the Deputy to the Chairperson for the Department of Agriculture. His breadth of knowledge and experience will serve him well as the Deputy and I respectfully request his confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

GM-593

Submitted on: 3/5/2024 8:26:30 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/6/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ramsey Brown	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am active in Hawaii's agricultural industry and a resident of native Hawaiian ancestry. Having interacted with Dexter in different capacities relating to grants for farmers and also to land use, I admire his work ethic, commitment, integrity, and collaborative approach to problem solving. I believe Dexter Kishida will benefit Hawaii's agricultural industry greatly in this role as the Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Agriculture. Thank you.

March 5, 2024

LETTER OF SUPPORT

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

CONFIRMATION OF DEXTER KISHITA

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair, Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair and Members of the committee

DEXTER KISHIDA, as Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Agriculture, State of Hawaii

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written support for Dexter Kishida, for the role of Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Agriculture.

As a branch manager in the marketing department of the Department of Agriculture, I have had the opportunity to work with Dexter. I am a relative newcomer to the department as well, so I have admired his leadership and ability to quickly understand and articulate the needs of our branch and organization.

I support GM593 to confirm Dexter Kishida to the role of Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter of support.



Brendan R Akamu
Branch Manager
Hawaii Department of Agriculture