

**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**  
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**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD**  
**CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 2024**  
**1:00 PM**  
**CONFERENCE ROOM 224 & VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**GOVERNORS MESSAGE NO. 645**

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides, Gubernatorial Nominee, MELVIN TOKUDA, for a term to expire 06-30-2027.

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

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Governor's Message No. 645. This measure seeks to confirm Melvin Tokuda to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides to fill the vacant Department of Health (DOH) seat. The Department of Agriculture strongly supports this measure.

Mr. Tokuda is currently on staff at the DOH as an Environmental Health Specialist in the Safe Drinking Water Branch. Mr. Tokuda is familiar with pesticides from his work for the Pesticides Branch for over 15 years. Mr. Tokuda's knowledge gained as a Pesticide Specialist over his tenure at the Department of Agriculture combined with his 16+ years with the Department of Health provides him with the experience to understand the complexities of the chemistries of the products, the pests, rules, statutes, and environmental impacts. A thorough understanding of many relevant positions is key to a fair process and advisory of important pesticide issues.



Mr. Tokuda provided service to the State's defense with the Hawaii Army National Guard over a period of 37 years and understands the guiding principles of public service. Mr. Tokuda would be an asset to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides based on his long track record of experience, training, and knowledge.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to testify in strong support.



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April 5, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

**TESTIMONY ON  
GM 645**

**Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, MELVIN TOKUDA, for a term to expire 06-30-2027**

Conference Room 224 & Via Videoconference  
1:00 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard and 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 (HFB) supports the confirmation of Melvin Tokuda to continue as a member of the Advisory Committee on Pesticides, representing the Department of Health. HFB believes that Mr. Tokuda's training and experience in pesticide matters provides him with a valuable understanding of the federal and State regulations. His on-the-ground experience conducting pesticide distribution and use inspections makes him a unique asset to the Committee as it considers developing or revising laws and rules to effectuate the purposes of HRS Chapter 149A and in advising the Department of Agriculture on pesticide issues.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our support for Melvin Tokuda.