

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
Governor

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
Lt. Governor



State of Hawai'i  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
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**SHARON HURD**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**DEAN M. MATSUKAWA**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

**APRIL 4, 2025**  
**1:00 PM**  
**CONFERENCE ROOM 224 & VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 533**

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, JANET ASHMAN, for a term to expire 06-30-2028.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Governor's Message No. 533. This measure seeks to confirm Janet Ashman to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides. The Department strongly supports this measure.

Ms. Ashman has previously served on the Advisory Committee on Pesticides and has provided thoughtful, science-based information, and balanced insight from the Hawai'i Farm Bureau Federation's perspective. Ms. Ashman has over 30 years of experience advocating for farmers. Ms. Ashman has served on a multitude of public and private committees and understands the process and importance of each respective committee

Ms. Ashman would be a valuable addition to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides and the Department requests the concurrence of the Senate to assist the Department in pesticide-related discussions.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





The Senate  
Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
Friday, April 4, 2025  
1:00 PM Conference Room 224 & Videoconference  
State Capitol

### Testimony in Support of GM 533

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

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) is **in support of GM 533**, considering the appointment of Janet Ashman to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

As a multi-agency coordinating entity, CGAPS convenes quarterly meetings, which Janet has participated in for many years, sharing Farm Bureau and agriculture updates and issues. Many times, Janet would share updates related to draft or impending pesticide regulations. CGAPS also facilitates or convenes Task Groups to get multiple perspectives and focus on addressing particular issues, and Janet has also participated in some of these, including one to update Noxious Seed and Noxious Weed administrative rules. Janet is responsive, diligent, and always a pleasure to work with. She brings a wealth of expertise from the agricultural industry and the agriculture-related use of pesticides in Hawaii, and for these reasons, we believe Janet would be an excellent appointee to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of GM 533.

Aloha,

Christy Martin  
CGAPS Program Manager

Stephanie Easley  
CGAPS Legal Fellow



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April 4, 2025

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

**TESTIMONY ON GM 533**

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, JANET ASHMAN, for a term to expire 06-30-2028

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 Janet Ashman to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.**

Ms. Ashman has been a trusted and knowledgeable advocate for Hawai'i agriculture for decades. She has worked with the Hawai'i Farm Bureau since 2008 and currently serves as co-chair of our Environmental Stewardship Committee. Janet brings a unique combination of professional expertise and real-world experience as a practicing farmer, attorney, and environmental specialist. Her background gives her a strong understanding of the science, law, and on-the-ground practices related to pesticide use and safety in Hawai'i.

Over her career, Janet has worked closely with farmers and ranchers statewide on a wide range of environmental and regulatory issues, including pesticide stewardship, invasive species, water quality, land use, and conservation. Her work has consistently emphasized practical, science-based solutions that safeguard both human and environmental health while maintaining the viability of Hawai'i's agricultural operations.

Ms. Ashman's professional experience includes environmental roles at the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center and the Hawaiian Sugar Planters Association. She has served on numerous state and federal committees focused on agriculture, environmental quality, public health, and resource conservation. Her collaborative work with the Department of Agriculture, Department of Health, University of Hawai'i, and numerous

community groups demonstrates her deep commitment to public service and improving Hawai'i's regulatory framework through thoughtful engagement.

As a sitting member of the Advisory Committee on Pesticides, Janet has been a voice of balance, reason, and experience. She supports science-based decision-making, prioritizes community input, and works to ensure that policy recommendations are grounded in both research and practical application.

Ms. Ashman is highly respected among her peers and the agricultural community at large. Her extensive experience, dedication to stewardship, and ability to engage diverse stakeholders make her an excellent choice to continue serving on the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of her nomination.



COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

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

**GM533**

Friday, April 4, 2025, 1:00PM  
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

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

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports GM533** for the confirmation of Janet Ashman to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Ms. Ashman is well equipped to serve on the Advisory Committee on Pesticides. She is an advocate for the responsible use of pesticides to protect the environment and human health, and she has a wealth of knowledge on the needs of agricultural producers. She has a strong understanding of current and historical laws and will present a balanced approach to policies.

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  
Managing Director



**GM-533**

Submitted on: 4/1/2025 1:50:27 PM

Testimony for AEN on 4/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support Janet Ashman's nomination for the advisory committee on pesticides

**GM-533**

Submitted on: 4/2/2025 8:36:51 PM

Testimony for AEN on 4/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Warren Watanabe	Testifying for Maui County Farm Bureau	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Maui County Farm Bureau is in strong support of GM533, Janet Ashman to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Mahalo

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

**GM 533, Janet Ashman  
Advisory Committee on Pesticides  
Senate AEN Committee  
Friday, April 4, 2025  
1:00 PM**

**Testimony by: Larry Jefts  
Position: Support**

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

I am Larry Jefts, owner and operator of Larry Jefts 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 also served as an officer of the Hawaii Farm Bureau for many years.

Your support and confirmation of Janet Ashman to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides is appreciated.

Janet Ashman is a well-respected and credible resource for Hawaii's agriculture community. Her expertise in environmental stewardship, pesticides, invasive species, and compliance with environmental safety and health laws and regulations is well-demonstrated through her work on numerous commissions, advisory groups, and organizations. She has been instrumental in shaping policies concerning pesticides, environmental stewardship, food protection practices, and air and water quality.

Her educational background includes a JD from the Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

Janet Ashman's qualifications make her a substantial addition to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides as it seeks to advise and assist the department in developing or revising laws and rules to implement safe practices and applications for farmers and the community.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**GM-533**

Submitted on: 4/2/2025 10:54:09 PM

Testimony for AEN on 4/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser	Individual	Support	In Person

## Comments:

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and members of the Committee, Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of Janet Ashman, GM 533 for consideration and confirmation to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides. Ms. Ashman has the professional and technical expertise to advise and assist the HDOA in developing or revising laws and rules to carry out and effectuate the purposes of the Hawaii Pesticides Law and advising the HDOA of pesticides problems. Please recommend to advise and consent the nomination of GM 533, Janet Ashman. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

**GM-533**

Submitted on: 4/3/2025 11:27:03 AM

Testimony for AEN on 4/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janet Ashman	Individual	Comments	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Thank you Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and members of the Committee, for the opportunity to serve on the Advisory Committee on Pesticides. If confirmed, I look forward to being of assistance to the Department of Agriculture on pesticide issues.

I am available if you have any questions.

**GM-533**

Submitted on: 3/25/2025 12:07:59 PM

Testimony for AEN on 4/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John R. Gordines	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I sincerely support Janet Ashman for the Advisory Board on pesticides. She is experienced, knowledgeable and a team player.

Johnny Gordines

**GM-533**

Submitted on: 3/25/2025 12:22:07 PM

Testimony for AEN on 4/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cynthia K.L. Rezentes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of Ms. Ashman becoming a member of the Advisory Committee on Pesticides. Her long-term connection to the agricultural business with her accumen on pesticides/insecticides/etc. make her an excellent person for join this committee with an eye to properly analyzing and utilizing pesticides in a manner in which it protects not only agriculture as an industry, but people who might be compromised with access or accidental exposure to pesticides.

**GM-533**

Submitted on: 4/1/2025 3:11:50 PM

Testimony for AEN on 4/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jimmy Gomes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support GM533 Janet Ashman. She goes beyond the call and is very professional for all she does.

**GM-533**

Submitted on: 4/2/2025 11:03:28 AM

Testimony for AEN on 4/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Moniz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support your confirmation of Ms. Janet Ashmen to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

**GM-533**

Submitted on: 4/2/2025 8:58:30 PM

Testimony for AEN on 4/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ronald Weidenbach	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

I have known Janet Ashman and worked with her professionally for many years on a wide range of Hawaii Farm Bureau matters and consider her to be very well informed and balanced in her careful assessment of pesticides, their regulations, their use, and other related matters concerning public and environmental health. Janet clearly has the education and extensive subject matter expertise to honorably represent the Hawaii Farm Bureau on the Advisory Committee on Pesticides. I therefore strongly support her nomination for this very important and responsible position.

**GM-533**

Submitted on: 4/2/2025 4:51:32 PM

Testimony for AEN on 4/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brendan Balthazar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Janet is a great person to be on this committee. She has been involved with agg for a long time and is very qualified.

Brendan Balthazar

Diamond B RanchLLC

**GM-533**

Submitted on: 4/2/2025 7:10:51 PM

Testimony for AEN on 4/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Randy Cabral	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support

**GM-533**

Submitted on: 4/2/2025 8:41:22 PM

Testimony for AEN on 4/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Support

**GM-533**

Submitted on: 4/2/2025 7:30:50 PM

Testimony for AEN on 4/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric Tanouye	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support Janet Sashman to serve on Committeeon Pesticides.

**GM-533**

Submitted on: 4/3/2025 4:45:08 AM

Testimony for AEN on 4/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rodrigo Balala	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support

**GM-533**

Submitted on: 4/3/2025 10:12:13 AM

Testimony for AEN on 4/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jerry Ornellas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support

**GM-533**

Submitted on: 4/3/2025 3:28:17 PM

Testimony for AEN on 4/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Annette Niles	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm in support for Janet Ashman for Advisory Committee Mahalo Annette Niles

**GM-533**

Submitted on: 4/3/2025 7:25:10 PM

Testimony for AEN on 4/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
K. Piltz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Gabbard and Committee Members:

RE: For consideration and confirmation to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides, Gubernatorial Nominee, Janet Ashman, for a term to expire 06-30-2028

I strongly believe that Janet Ashman is a great nominee to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides. She has worked tirelessly in the agricultural community and has vast knowledge about environmental sciences. She is a valuable resource asset to the community and would be an asset as well to the committee.

Thank you for your consideration and confirmation of Janet Ashman.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.