

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LT. GOVERNOR



WENDY GADY  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
**AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**  
HUI HO'OU LU AINA MAHIAI

TESTIMONY OF WENDY L. GADY  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND  
TOURISM

February 27, 2025

1:00 p.m.

Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

**GM 588 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of  
Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Gubernatorial  
Nominee, NATHAN TRUMP, for a term to expire 06-30-2028**

Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express my **support** of GM 588, relating to the consideration and confirmation of Mr. Nathan Trump's appointment to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) Board of Directors. Mr. Trump's extensive agricultural experience, leadership in Hawai'i's farming sector, and commitment to sustainable agribusiness development make him an exceptional candidate for this role.

**Proven Leadership & Agricultural Expertise**

Born and raised in Kohala, Hawai'i Island, Mr. Trump graduated from Kohala High School in 2010 and later earned a degree in International Relations from Wheaton College in Illinois. His career in agriculture began as a Management Associate with Cargill Animal Nutrition in Kansas City, Kansas,

providing him with valuable insights into large-scale agricultural operations and agribusiness management.

Upon returning to Hawai'i, he took on the role of General Manager at Island Harvest, a 500-acre organic-certified macadamia nut farm. Under his leadership, Island Harvest expanded into value-added product development, furthering local food production and sustainability efforts.

### **Commitment to the ADC & Agricultural Development**

Since his interim appointment to the ADC Board, Mr. Trump has demonstrated unwavering dedication to the agency's mission and responsibilities:

- **100% Attendance Record** – He has not missed a single board meeting since his interim appointment, ensuring consistent leadership and decision-making for critical agribusiness initiatives.
- **Key Contributor to the Permitted Interaction Group for Land Application Review & Scoring** – His expertise has been instrumental in reviewing and evaluating land applications, ensuring that farmland is allocated efficiently to benefit local farmers and food security.
- **Active Advocate for ADC Legislation** – He has been actively writing testimony in support of key ADC legislation, demonstrating his commitment to policy advancement that strengthens Hawai'i's agricultural industry.

### **Addressing the Need for Young Leadership in Agriculture**

The agricultural sector in Hawai'i faces a significant challenge with an aging farmer population. As of the 2022 Census of Agriculture, the **average age of farmers in Hawai'i is 60.7 years**, reflecting an upward trend from previous years.

This aging demographic underscores the critical need for young leaders to bring fresh perspectives, innovative practices, and long-term commitment to the industry. Young farmers are more inclined to adopt new technologies and sustainable methods, which are essential for the future of agriculture.

Mr. Trump, as a young leader, embodies this new generation of agricultural professionals. His appointment would not only infuse the ADC Board with innovative ideas and energy but also serve as an inspiration to other young individuals considering careers in agriculture.

### **Broader Contributions to Hawai'i's Agricultural Community**

Beyond his work with ADC, Mr. Trump is a well-respected leader in the agricultural sector, holding the following roles:

- **President of the Hawai'i Macadamia Nut Association** – Advocating for Hawai'i's macadamia farmers and industry growth.
- **Board Member of the Synergistic Hawai'i Agriculture Council** – Supporting collaborative initiatives to enhance food security and agricultural sustainability.
- **President of the North Kohala Community Resource Center** – Promoting community-based agricultural programs and rural development.

## **Conclusion**

Mr. Trump's dedication, expertise, and active contributions to the ADC and Hawai'i's broader agricultural landscape make him an outstanding choice for this appointment. His track record of leadership, engagement, and advocacy will greatly benefit the ADC's efforts to support farmers, agribusinesses, and sustainable land use across the state.

I strongly urge the committee to confirm his appointment, as his continued service will help advance the strategic vision for Hawai'i's agricultural future.

Thank you for considering my testimony.



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

February 27, 2025

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

**TESTIMONY ON GM 588**

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, NATHAN TRUMP, for a term to expire 06-30-2028.

Conference Room 229 & Videoconference  
1:00 PM

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice-Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committees:

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 Nathan Trump to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.**

Nathan Trump brings extensive agricultural experience and leadership to Hawai'i's farming sector. As the General Manager of Island Harvest Inc., a 500-acre macadamia nut farm in Kapa'au, he has successfully overseen farm operations, implemented organic nutrition strategies, and launched a retail brand for macadamia nut products. His hands-on experience in large-scale agriculture, combined with his business acumen, makes him a valuable asset to ADC's mission of supporting and developing Hawai'i's agribusiness industry.

In addition to his work at Island Harvest, Nathan has demonstrated strong leadership within the agricultural community. As the President of the Hawai'i Macadamia Nut Association, he has led industry initiatives, organized conferences, secured research funding, and facilitated workshops to support macadamia growers. His involvement in organizations such as the Synergistic Hawai'i Agricultural Council and the North Kohala Community Resource Center further highlights his commitment to strengthening local agriculture.

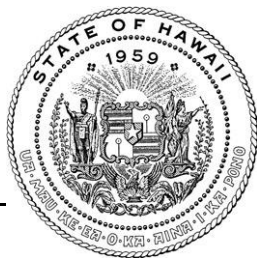
Nathan's background also includes international experience in agricultural development, having worked with small-scale coffee farmers in Nicaragua under the Fair-Trade label.

His diverse perspective on agriculture—ranging from local farm operations to global agricultural systems—will bring valuable insight to ADC’s strategic planning and policy decisions.

With his deep knowledge of Hawai‘i’s agricultural landscape, experience in managing agribusiness operations, and dedication to fostering sustainable agriculture, Nathan Trump is well-qualified to serve on the ADC Board. His leadership and expertise will help shape policies that enhance Hawai‘i’s food security, support local farmers, and promote the long-term sustainability of the agricultural industry.

The Hawai‘i Farm Bureau strongly urges the committee to confirm Nathan Trump to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**  
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI  
A HO'OMĀKA'IKA'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  
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Testimony of  
**JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA**  
**Director**  
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM**

Thursday, February 27, 2025  
1:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In consideration of  
**GM 588**  
**Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the**  
**Agribusiness Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee,**  
**NATHAN TRUMP, for a term to expire 06-30-2028.**

Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai and members of the Committee.

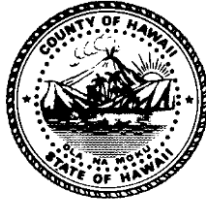
I support the confirmation of Mr. Nathan Trump to the Board of the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC).

Nathan has been serving as the general manager of Island Harvest since 2015 in which he manages the operations for a 500-acre macadamia nut farm and launched a retail brand and developed new products. He has also been serving as President of the Hawai'i Macadamia Nut Association since 2019 and has successfully secured funding and implemented grants for the organization.

In addition, Nathan has served on numerous councils and committees including the North Kohala Community Resource Center, Synergistic Hawai'i Agricultural Council, World Macadamia Organization and the International Macadamia Symposium Committee. With his leadership experience and involvement with the agricultural community, Nathan will be an asset to the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support.

C. Kimo Alameda, Ph.D.  
*Mayor*



Benson Medina  
*Director*

Dennis Lin  
*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  
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**February 25, 2025**

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

**THURSDAY, February 27, 2025**

**1:00 PM**

**CONFERENCE ROOM 229**

### TESTIMONY ON GM 588

**Consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, NATHAN TRUMP, for a term to expire 06-30-2028.**

Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide **support** for GM588 to confirm Nathan Trump to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC).

Nathan Trump has demonstrated profound commitment and effectiveness in enhancing the scale, strength, and profitability of Hawaii's farming sector. He has valuable experience working in an international rural agricultural setting and in the livestock industry. These skills were brought home to his family macadamia orchard where he effectively manages the 500-acre orchard with 15-20 employees. He expanded the product line and transitioned the orchard's nutrition program from chemical additives to organic fertilizer and amendments. His focus on developing financially viable and sustainable agricultural projects aligns perfectly with ADC's mission.

Nathan has served as the Hawai'i Macadamia Nut Association's President for 6 years and counting. He has a understanding of the local, national and international agricultural economies through his current commitments as President of the North Kohala Community Resource Center, member of the Synergistic Hawai'i Agricultural Council's Board of Directors and the Vice Chair of the International Macadamia Symposium Committee. He plans monthly meetings and helps to organize workshops and annual industry conferences. He has secured funding to research invasive species of Macadamia nuts and supported the educational workshops for growers. He has shown a deep respect and love for our local agricultural industries.



We respectfully request your support for Nathan Trump's nomination to the ADC Board. His leadership qualities and professional experience are exactly what the Board needs to propel Hawaii's agricultural development forward.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. If you have any questions, please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Benson Medina". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and a long, sweeping underline.

Benson Medina

Director

County of Hawai'i

Department of Research and Development

# NORTH KOHALA COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

*To Empower A Thriving North Kohala*

## DIRECTORS

Nathan Trump  
President

*General Manager*

Jay Vega  
Vice President

*PID Organizer*

Shani "Kai" Carvalho  
Secretary

*Public Relations Director*

Todd Apo  
Treasurer  
CEO

Beth Bohn  
*Small Business Owner*

Cherie Carvalho  
*Vice Principal*

Denni Keyes  
*Small Business Owner*

Vicky Kometani  
*Public Relations Consultant*

Wendy Nickl  
*Kohala Teacher*

## YOUTH DIRECTORS

Jensel Merice Jose  
Kenneth Matsuda

## HONORARY DIRECTORS

Alida Adamek

Kelly Ah Hee

Gino Amar

Lani Bowman

Christopher Brown

Joe Carvalho

David Gomes

Chris Helmuth

Bob Martin

Dennis Matsuda

Kathleen Matsuda

Desiree Medeiros

Amy Meyer-Sullivan

Jessica Patao

Nani Svendsen

Kim Takata

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Leelen Park

## DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Michelle Kawai

## PROJECT COORDINATOR

Annalene Williams

## KOHALA RESILIENCE HUB COORDINATOR

Kathy Matsuda

## KOHALA RESILIENCE HUB ASSISTANT

Kimi Vakauta

February 25, 2025

**The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi, President**

and Members of the Senate

Thirty-Third Legislature

Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 409

Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

**Subject: Letter of Support for Nathan Trump's Confirmation to the ADC Board**

Dear President Kouchi and Members of the Senate,

I am pleased to submit this letter of support for Nathan Trump's confirmation to the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) Board. As the Board Chair of the North Kohala Community Resource Center (NKCRC) and General Manager of Island Harvest, Nathan brings a wealth of experience in agriculture, business management, and community leadership that makes him an exceptional candidate for this role.

Nathan's deep-rooted commitment to Hawai'i's agricultural future is evident in his leadership at Island Harvest, where he oversees the cultivation of 500 acres of certified organic macadamia nuts and has expanded operations to include limes and breadfruit. His work not only supports sustainable agriculture but also contributes to the broader economic resilience of Hawai'i's farming communities.

Beyond his professional expertise, Nathan is a dedicated advocate for both the agricultural sector and the North Kohala community. His role as President of the Hawai'i Macadamia Nut Association underscores his leadership in the industry, while his tenure as President of NKCRC reflects his commitment to grassroots community development. Through these roles, Nathan has consistently demonstrated strategic vision, collaborative leadership, and a passion for fostering economic and agricultural opportunities across the state.

On a personal note, I have known Nathan since he was in Cub Scouts and have had the pleasure of working closely with him at NKCRC. Over the years, I have seen firsthand the qualities that define him: hard work, integrity, and strong leadership. Nathan is exactly the kind of forward-thinking and dedicated leader Hawai'i's agricultural industry needs. The ADC Board would be fortunate to have him, and I strongly urge his confirmation.

Please feel free to contact me if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,



**Leelen Park**

Executive Director

**GM-588**

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 12:34:10 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ronald Weidenbach	Testifying for Hawaii Fish Company Inc.	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support Nathan Trump's nomination to the ADC Board. Nathan is the General Manager for Island Harvest, a Kohala-based farming company focused on macadamia production, and would bring hands-on farming knowledge to the Boards deliberations.



# HAWAII CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

GM 588 – In Support

Confirming Nathan Trump to the Agribusiness Development Corporation Board

Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tourism

Date: Thursday, February 27, 2025

Time: 1:00 PM

Place: Conference Room 229

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association (HCIA) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony **in support of GM 588**, which submits for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Nathan Trump, for a term to expire 06-30-2028.

Diversity of background and experience is important to the success of the ADC Board of Directors. The confirmation of Nathan Trump as a County of Hawaii member supports this key objective.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

*The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association is a Hawaii-based non-profit organization that promotes modern agriculture to help farmers and communities succeed. Through education, collaboration, and advocacy, we work to ensure a safe and sustainable food supply, support responsible farming practices, and build a healthy economy.*

**GM-588**

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 8:30:46 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maya Parish	Testifying for Kohala Food Hub	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Nathan Trump has shown leadership across multiple agricultural and community-based organizations and is a trusted member and leader of our community in Kohala. We are in strong support of his confirmation to the Board of Directors for the Agribusiness Development Corporation. His strong background in agriculture and leadership will serve him very well in this position. He is the General Manager of Island Harvest, a family-operated organic farm in Kohala on Hawai'i Island and graduated from Kohala High School. He oversees the cultivation of 500 acres of organic certified macadamia nuts and the production of a retail line of packaged macadamia nut products. In addition to macadamia nuts, the farm has recently established small orchards of limes and breadfruit. Prior to returning to Hawai'i to operate the family farm, Nathan began his career in agriculture as a Management Associate with Cargill Animal Nutrition in Kansas City, KS after graduating from Wheaton College (Il.) in 2014 with a degree in International Relations. Nathan is a dedicated leader in Hawaii's agricultural community, serving as President of the Hawai'i Macadamia Nut Association. He also serves the Kohala community as President of the North Kohala Community Resource Center.

**GM-588**

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 6:18:22 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sandra Tran	Testifying for Kapanāia Farms	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please confirm Nathan Trump's nomination to the ADC Board of Directors. Nathan has been leading community efforts in the north Kohala area, not only in the agricultural sector but for a wide range of other community focused areas for as long as I've known him. He has shown the care, compassion and follow through traits necessary to get things done.

**GM-588**

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 7:03:02 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

## Comments:

I would like to testify in support of Mr. Nathan Trump to be confirmed on the Board of ADC. I am the Executive Director of Kahua Pa'a Mua, Inc, a non profit in Agriculture education and economic development, a Co-Chair for the Kohala Community Development Planning - Agriculture Sub-committee and an active Kupuna advocate for our Kohala Community for the past 40 years. I have worked with Nathan in various community events and I have seen this young person growing up in a family business, working closely with his family farm, Island Harvest, now serving as General Manager. Nathan has impressed me with good morales, he is smart, honest and possess an analytical approach in making decisions. He understands the concept of "building" agriculture Statewide., I recommend his appointment to the ADC Board with no reservations. Aloha, David Fuertes

**GM-588**

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 12:22:41 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

**February 25, 2025**

**Aloha Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation,**

**My name is Kathleen Matsuda, Director of Kohala Resilience Hub and Outreach.**

**I recommend you consider Nathan Trump to be on your Board of Directors.**

**I know Nathan from when he was attending Kohala High School, and he was excelling in academics, also a leader in his class as well as school.**

**As a young adult it is wonderful he has come back home, and has become the General Manager of his family business called Island Harvest. They provide jobs for the local people, and has great organic products to represent Kohala.**

**Nathan is active in the Kohala Agriculture group who organized the Water Summit, and continues to have a strong voice at meetings.**

**Nathan is also the President of North Kohala Community Resource Center who supports Kohala projects. Projects that support North Kohala.**

**Nathan Trump will be a great choice for your Board of Directors.**

**Mahalo,**

**Kathleen Matsuda**

**Director of Kohala Resilience Hub & Outreach**



**GM-588**

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 6:05:18 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
annalene williams	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi, President

and Members of the Senate

Thirty-Third Legislature

Hawai‘i State Capitol, Room 409

Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813

**Letter of Support for Nathan Trump’s Confirmation to the ADC Board of Directors [GM588]**

Dear President Kouchi and Members of the Senate.

My name is Annalene, and I am submitting a personal letter as an individual supporting Nathan Trump’s confirmation to the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) Board of Directors.

I have had the opportunity to work alongside Nathan at the North Kohala Community Resource Center (NKCRC), where Nathan currently serves as Board President. NKCRC is a 23-year-old non-profit organization that serves as a fiscal sponsor for various community initiatives. In his role at NKCRC, Nathan has consistently demonstrated strong leadership skills, integrity, and genuine empathy for the staff, fellow volunteers, and members of the North Kohala community.

My involvement as a member of the North Kohala Community Development Plan's Agriculture Group allowed me to witness Nathan's contributions firsthand during our regular meetings. He consistently provides insightful information on agricultural legislation and practical applications, and his experience as a practicing farmer brings a unique and highly beneficial perspective to our group. He deeply understands the challenges farmers encounter in Hawaii.

Hawaii is burdened with an urgent need to improve its food self-sufficiency due to its heavy reliance on imports and vulnerability to supply chain disruptions. This situation highlights the crucial role of the Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC) in transforming the state's agricultural landscape. Nathan's passion for agriculture and strong leadership skills make him an exceptional candidate for the ADC Board of Directors. He would play a critical role in developing effective solutions. Additionally, Nathan's extensive agricultural background would make him a valuable asset to the ADC Board of Directors.

Sincerely

Annalene Williams

February 26, 2025

Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tourism

The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Chair

The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

*RE: GM588, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, NATHAN TRUMP, for a term to expire 06-30-2028.*

Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide **support** for GM588 to confirm Nathan Trump to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC).

Nathan Trump has demonstrated profound commitment and effectiveness in enhancing the scale, strength, and profitability of Hawaii's farming sector. As a resident of North Kohala I deeply value Nathan's dedication and demonstrated leadership in our community and in the agricultural sector. He holds well respected roles as General Manager of Island Harvest, a family-operated organic farm in Kohala, as well as serving as President of both the Hawai'i Macadamia Nut Association and the North Kohala Community Resource Center a 501(c)3 nonprofit.

I have witnessed Nathan's capacity to work with diverse stakeholders while nurturing cooperation and innovation. His experience and focus on developing financially viable and sustainable agricultural projects aligns with ADC's mission.

I respectfully request your support for Nathan Trump's nomination to the ADC Board. His leadership qualities and professional experience will benefit the ADC Board, and our agricultural community, supporting Hawaii's agricultural development.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Leslie Nugent