

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DEAN M. MATSUKAWA
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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. 531

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides,
Gubernatorial Nominee, JUDSON LAIRD, 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. 531. This measure seeks to confirm Judson Laird to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides. The Department strongly supports this measure.

Mr. Laird has served in an interim capacity on the Advisory Committee on Pesticides and has provided thoughtful and balanced insight from a diversified agricultural producers' perspective. Mr. Laird has over 15 years of experience in pest control for agricultural production of crops in Hawai'i and brings a breadth of knowledge regarding industry understanding of pesticides laws and rules.

Mr. Laird 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.





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April 4, 2025

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON GM 531

For consideration and confirmation to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides,
Gubernatorial Nominee, Judson Laird

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 supports GM 531, Judson Laird, for confirmation to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Mr. Laird is the ideal candidate for membership on the Committee. His extensive knowledge of pesticide laws, regulations, and application, along with his hands-on experience in the field will provide the Committee with the type of fact-based, detailed information it needs to properly analyze and provide recommendations on complicated pesticide regulatory matters.

Mr. Laird is a dedicated member of the local community and a strong advocate for environmentally responsible pesticide use practices to mitigate damage to agroecosystems on farms and elsewhere. He is very familiar with the types of pests and invasive species that are destructive to Hawai'i agriculture, as well as those on the continental U.S. that are expected to inevitably make their way to Hawai'i, bringing with them damage to our capacity for food security, the conservation of our watersheds, and even our way of life.

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports Mr. Laird's confirmation to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Thank you for your continued support of our local farmers who have the honor of and responsibility for providing Hawai'i with its agricultural needs.