

# **GM719**

**Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, DENISE ALBANO, for a term to expire 6-30-2016.**

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI  
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

April 21, 2015  
2:45 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 414

**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 719  
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS OF THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION,  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, DENISE ALBANO, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-  
2016**

Chairperson Ruderman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Governor's Message 719 that submits for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors for the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Denise Albano, for a term to expire on June 30, 2016. The Department supports the confirmation of Ms. Albano.

Ms. Albano brings to the table a long history of public service through her non-profit experience where she served in leadership roles in the Larkin Street Youth Services and the Executive Director of the YMCA in California. Presently, her work as the co-founder of the Feed the Hunger Foundation has allowed her to merge her experiences within social services and the agricultural community. Feed the Hunger Foundation, under her leadership, has made loans to farmers in Kunia, Waianae, and the Waimea Homestead Association and has partnered with other farmers to establish new markets that accept food stamps.

Ms. Albano understands the importance of partnerships and we look forward to her participation on the Board of Directors for the Agribusiness Development Corporation.



Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this nomination.

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
Governor

**SHAN S. TSUTSUI**  
Lt. Governor



**JAMES J. NAKATANI**  
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 JAMES J. NAKATANI  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

**Tuesday, April 21, 2015  
2:45 PM**

GM 719 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, DENISE ALBANO, for a term to expire 6-30-2016.

Aloha Chair Ruderman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. The Agribusiness Development Corporation ("ADC") supports Ms. Denise Albano's appointment as a member to the ADC Board of Directors.

Ms. Albano is currently the President of Feed the Hunger Foundation, a non-profit organization that she co-founded whose mission is to eliminate poverty and hunger worldwide by using microfinance and technical assistance as a platform for food security and economic development. Ms. Albano previously served as campaign manager for The Nature Conservancy Hawaii and executive director for various children and family organizations in California and Hawaii.

With her background in resource management and problem solving, Ms. Albano's will bring a fresh perspective that will help complement the diversity of background and experiences of other members already on the Board. We truly

believe she will be a tremendous asset in moving Hawaii's agriculture forward and we ask for your support of Ms. Albano's appointment to serve as a member of the ADC Board of Directors.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify.



**CITY COUNCIL**  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
530 SOUTH KING STREET, ROOM 202  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3065  
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-5010 • FAX: (808) 768-5011

**ANN H. KOBAYASHI**  
COUNCILMEMBER, DISTRICT 5  
CHAIR, COMMITTEE ON BUDGET  
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-5005  
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EMAIL: akobayashi@honolulu.gov

April 15, 2015

The Honorable Russell E. Ruderman, Chair  
Senate Committee on Agriculture  
State Capitol Building, Room 218  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**SUBJ: GM 719 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, gubernatorial nominee, DENISE ALBANO, for a term to expire 6-30-2016**

Dear Chair Ruderman and Members of the Senate Agriculture Committee:

This letter is written in support of the confirmation of Denise Albano to the Board of Agribusiness Development Corporation.

As president and co-founder of the nonprofit organization, Feed the Hunger Foundation, and its Hawaii program, "Food for Thought", Ms. Albano and the organization use micro financing to address poverty, hunger, food security and economic development. The Feed the Hunger Foundation has issued loans to entrepreneurs who are just starting out or who want to expand their small businesses.

The Foundation has granted loans to farmers in Kunia, Waianae, and the Waimea Homestead Association. It has also partnered with other organizations to establish new markets in low-income senior housing complexes and worked with the Waimanalo Market Co-op to ensure a constant supply of fresh produce to the community. The Foundation has also invested in cultural, educational and economic needs through Koko'o'Oiwi.

I believe in Ms. Albano's passion for success of Hawaii's agricultural industry and I am confident that her confirmation will be a great asset to the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support.

Sincerely,

Ann Kobayashi  
Councilmember  
District V

AK: fss



Email: [communications@ulupono.com](mailto:communications@ulupono.com)

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
Tuesday, April 21, 2015 — 2:45 p.m. — Room 414

**Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports Denise Albano for the Board of the State Agribusiness Development Corporation**

Dear Chair Ruderman, Vice Chair Riviere, and Members of the Committee:

We are Murray Clay, Kyle Datta, and Amy Hennessey, the management team of the Ulupono Initiative, a Hawai'i-based impact investment company that strives to improve the quality of life for the people of Hawai'i by working toward solutions that create more locally grown food; increase clean, renewable energy; and waste reduction. We believe that self-sufficiency in these key areas is essential to our future prosperity, and will help shape a future where economic progress and mission-focused impact can work hand in hand.

**Ulupono strongly supports Denise Albano** for the Board of the State Agribusiness Development Corporation, because her appointment aligns with our goal of providing more locally produced food.

She has helped our local farmers and ranchers via her work providing low-cost financing through the Feed the Hunger Foundation. We have had the benefit of working with her and know she has vast experience in understanding the challenges that farmers face. Over her years of experience, she has developed deep expertise in evaluating agricultural business plans for feasibility and credit worthiness. This combined with her experience offering technical assistance to agricultural businesses will greatly benefit the Agribusiness Development Corporation in achieving its mission.

We are impressed with her work and feel she would make a great board member on the State Agribusiness Development Corporation. We look forward to working with her in the future.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Murray Clay  
Managing Partner

Kyle Datta  
General Partner

*Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i*



Amy Hennessey  
Director of Communications



Tuesday April 21, 2015 @ 2:45

To: Chair Russell Ruderman and Vice Chair Riviere and  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture

From: Amy Agbayani, Co-Chair  
Amy\_agbayani@yahoo.com

Subject: Testimony in support of GM 719 Denise Albano to the  
Board of Agribusiness Development Corporation.

I am honored to express strong and positive support for Denise Albano on behalf of the Hawaii Friends of Civil Rights (HFCR). HFCR seeks to promote the values of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for civil rights and social and economic justice. We support diversity and equal access for all. We believe government boards, such as the Board of Agribusiness Development Corporation should support these important goals and that Ms. Albano shares these goals and has relevant experience to be a valued member of this board.

I have known Denise Albano for a few years as a member of one of the committees of Feed the Hunger Foundation. Her vision and hard work as co-founder and President of Feed the Hunger is very much appreciated because the Foundation has

made a huge and positive impact locally, in other states and in other countries. She is recognized as a leader in micro financing to empower individual workers, low income families, business and non-profit organizations to build community, resources and social justice. She has had a long professional career working with youth, women and other groups who are economically disadvantaged. She understands the need to develop public policies for sustainability and equal access. I have been impressed with her leadership and ability to solve problems and obtain needed resources for the community. She has extensive experience with both the private sector as well as local and national government agencies. I am confident she will be able to be a very diligent member of the board. She is intelligent, has integrity and appreciates the history of our state and issues facing families, labor and agribusiness.

For over four decades, my professional responsibilities at the University of Hawai'i and my community work has been in the area of diversity and inclusion of groups traditionally excluded from higher education, management and policy making boards. It is with sincere pride that I endorse the nomination of Denise Albano because women and Filipinos are underrepresented in state policy-making boards and continue to be underpaid. Women represent half of humanity and Filipinos in Hawaii are the second largest ethnic group in the state but may represent about 5% of boards and commissions.

I respectfully request the Senate support this nomination. I want to take this public opportunity to express my strong support for and appreciation to Ms. Albano for her commitment and service to the state.



Constance H. Lau  
*President and CEO*

April 17, 2015

Senate Committee on Agriculture  
State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: GM 719 - Nomination of Denise Albano – Board of the Agribusiness Development Corporation

Chair Ruderman, Vice Chair Riviere and Members of the Committee:

This letter is in support of Denise Albano to serve on the Board of the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC).

Denise Albano co-founded Feed The Hunger Foundation and its Hawaii program, “Food For Thought”, to address food security in the islands. Feed The Hunger Foundation makes loans to entrepreneurs who are starting or expanding their small businesses. Loans have been made to farmers in Kunia, Waianae, and the Waimea Homestead Association. They partner with others to establish new markets in low-income senior housing complexes in West Loch that accepts food stamps. They work with the Waimanalo Market Co-op to introduce a constant supply of fresh produce to this community. The Foundation has invested in cultural, educational, and economic needs through Kako’o’Oiwī.

Denise is the former Executive Director of several nonprofit organizations, demonstrating her passion and commitment towards helping marginalized youth and families. She has developed a continuum of services including housing, medical and mental health services, HIV programs, educational and vocational services and economic development programs for youth. Denise was the Executive Director of the Richmond YMCA in San Francisco and was also with the San Francisco Children and Families Commission. Prior to that she developed and ran residential services for youth transitioning out of the juvenile justice system and with youth in the mental health system in Hawaii.

We believe Denise's leadership experience and community involvement will be an asset to the ADC.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Constance H. Lau".



April 15, 2015

Aloha Senators

My wife and I are owner operators of Shinsato Farm in Kahaluu, Oahu. We would like to express our whole hearted support for Denise Albano to the Board of Directors for The Agribusiness Development Corporation.

As small hog farmers, we know full well the difficulties of protein production. We know that major changes are needed if we are to continue farming. We feel that Denise who is a forward looking and an "out of the box thinker", also believes that major changes are needed if farmers are to survive and to prosper. More importantly, she is a very good listener and has a desire to understand what we are up against. Denise has earned our respect and admiration.

Denise will be an asset to the Board and will give voice to ideas that will help us to keep on farming.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

Glenn Shinsato

Amy Shinsato



## KAKO'O 'ŌIWI

April 13, 2015

**The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, President**

And Members of the Senate  
Twenty-Eight State Legislature  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**Re: Confirmation of Denise Albano, Nominee to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation**

Aloha Senate President Kim and Members of the Senate:

I am writing to express our strong support for the confirmation of nominee Denise Albano, to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Kāko'o 'Ōiwi is a Hawai'i 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is *to perpetuate the cultural and spiritual practices of Native Hawaiians*. In 2010, our organization acquired a 38-year lease to 405-acres in the wetlands of He'eia, Ko'olaupoko, O'ahu to restore agricultural and ecological productivity to this once abundant landscape.

Ms. Albano serves as the President of Feed the Hunger Foundation, an organization that has provided access to financial capital, technical assistance, and other resources for small-scale and underserved agricultural producers and other food-related ventures in Hawai'i, California, and globally. The investments Ms. Albano and her organization have made in Hawai'i have enabled agricultural organizations like ours to develop the capacity to meet the important challenge of increasing the sustainability, resilience and food security our island community.

We feel strongly that Ms. Albano's passion and demonstrated commitment to local agriculture and the businesses which comprise our sector combined with her executive leadership experience will contribute significantly to the Agribusiness Development Corporation's ability to strengthen and guide the development of a more resilient, economically vibrant agricultural industry.

Mahalo for the opportunity to express our support for Ms. Albano's confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Me Ka Ha'a Ha'a,

**J. Kanekoa Kukea-Shultz**

Executive Director



Dear Senators:

April 13, 2015

This letter is in support of confirming Denise Albano to the Board of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Denise Albano co-founded Feed the Hunger Foundation (FTHF) and its Hawaii program, "Food For Thought", to address food security in the islands. I do not know of anyone as dedicated to this cause as Denise; she knows the farmers, their struggles and successes. FTHF makes loans to entrepreneurs who are starting or expanding their small businesses. Loans have been made to farmers in Kunia, Waianae, and the Waimea Homestead Association. Recently, the Waimanalo Market Co-op was fortunate to receive a much needed loan from FTHF when no other bank would take on the risk of a startup consumer food co-op. They partner with others to establish new markets in low-income senior housing complexes in West Loch that accept food stamps. Again, FTHF has partnered with the Waimanalo Market Co-op to reach out to Windward farmers to see how their businesses could be enhanced. They are doing great work to help our farmers, many of them, recent graduates of the "Go Farm" program out of Windward Community College. Feed the Hunger Foundation has invested in cultural, educational, and economic needs through Kako'o`Oiwī.

Recently, through Denise's efforts, Senator Ruderman and FTHF co-hosted an event at the capitol that brought together 20 small farmers and Senators. The Senators were able to hear the needs, challenges, and possible avenues of success directly from the farmers growing our food.

I have known Denise for over five years and she has been with the Waimanalo Market Co-op since inception, giving us advice, support and encouragement. We believe her work and passion for the success of Hawaii's agricultural industry will be an asset to the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Sincerely,

Waimanalo Market Co-op

Kehaulani Padilla  
Founder and Board Member

April 13, 2015

Dear Senators,

I would like to respectfully submit this letter is in support of confirming Denise Albano to the Board of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

It has been an honor with work alongside Denise Albano these past years on the rebuilding of our local food system. She co-founded Feed The Hunger Foundation and its Hawaii program, "Food For Thought," to address food security in the islands. I have witnessed the positive and powerful impact of Feed The Hunger Foundation's loan making efforts to entrepreneurs who are starting or expanding their small businesses, including farmers in Kunia, Waianae, and the Waimea Homestead Association.

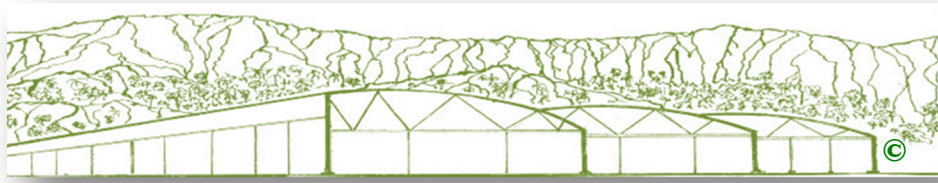
In addition to this kind of support for local businesses, Feed the Hunger Foundation took under their wing a project I helped to foster, GreenWheel Food Hub, and by doing so made it possible for us to bring EBT/SNAP service to five farmers markets on Oahu. This process included a partnership with Pacific Gateway Center and EAH Housing to begin the development of a farm stand network (EBT/SNAP/food stamp-ready to service in low-income senior housing complexes in Ewa. Feed the Hunger Foundation is also helping to grow efforts like Waimanalo Market Co-op that makes possible a constant supply of fresh produce to this community by giving beginning farmers in that community a distribution point. Feed the Hunger Foundation recognizes and so invests in cultural, educational, and economic needs through projects like Kako'o'Oiwi.

I was present at an event at the capitol that Denise organized earlier this year and believe it reflects the depth and range of Denise's efforts. It was a roundtable discussion that brought together 20 small farmers and senators, co-hosted by Feed the Hunger Foundation and Senator Ruderman. All present were able a share needs, challenges, discuss viable possibilities. Bringing people to the table to work together in a meaningful way is a valuable skill borne from the breadth of experience.

I believe Denise Albano's work and commitment to seeing Hawaii's agricultural industry up to its potential for successes is a valuable asset to the Agricultural Development Corporation.

Sincerely,

Lisa Asagi



***Hydroponics Alternatives LLC***  
***dba Hawaiian Hydroponics Vegetables***

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P.O. Box 1472 🌿 Wai`anae, Hawai`i 96792 🌿 Tel: 808-228-3450 🌿 Toll-Free Fax: 1-866-342-4917

Email: [nancy@hawaiianhydroveg.com](mailto:nancy@hawaiianhydroveg.com) or [zeb@hawaiianhydroveg.com](mailto:zeb@hawaiianhydroveg.com)

April 16, 2015

**BY EMAIL & HARD COPY**

The Honorable Russell Ruderman, Chair  
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice-Chair  
Hawai`i State Senate Committee on Agriculture  
Hawai`i State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Confirmation of Ms. Denise Albano to the Agribusiness Development Corporation

Dear Senators Ruderman and Riviere and Agriculture Committee Members:

We are writing to enthusiastically support the confirmation of Ms. Denise Albano to the Board of the Agribusiness Development Corporation. We strongly believe that the Agribusiness Development Corporation is a vital solution to assisting Hawai`i's small farmers to reduce this demand on imported foods, and to keep Hawai`i's money in Hawai`i. Given that Hawai`i imports over 87% of its daily food supply, it is crucial that locally grown fruits and vegetables replace imported food items. We can no longer depend upon mainland or Central/South-American farmers to ensure that the people of Hawai`i have access to the fresh foods we consume on a daily basis.

Denise is a co-founder of Feed the Hunger Foundation, a non-profit entity that strives to eliminate poverty and hunger both internationally and in Hawai`i via micro-finance as a platform for food security and economic development. Feed the Hunger's Hawai`i-based program, "Food for Thought," strongly supports Hawai`i farmers in their agricultural production efforts to increase overall food security throughout Hawai`i when small farmers find it difficult to obtain traditional funding. Banks often turn a deaf ear to small farmers due to the high risk, but Feed the Hunger fills this void whenever possible.

Since its creation, Feed the Hunger Foundation – under Denise's direction – has made numerous loans to farmers and other entrepreneurs who are starting or expanding their small businesses – our farm included. With Denise's support, farmers in Kunia, Wai`anae, and the Waimea Homestead Association have all received loans. Denise has also spearheaded the efforts of Feed the Hunger Foundation to partner with others in establishing new markets in low-income senior housing complexes in West Loch, O`ahu that accepts food stamps. The Foundation has also invested in Hawai`i's cultural, educational and economic needs through its Kako`o`Oiwi program.

Most recently, through Denise's efforts, Senator Ruderman and Feed the Hunger Foundation co-hosted an event at the Hawai`i State Capitol that brought together over

The Honorable Russell Ruderman, Chair  
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice-Chair  
Hawai`i State Senate Committee on Agriculture  
April 16, 2015  
Page 2

20 of Hawai`i's small farmers and Senators. This forum allowed Senators as well as Representatives to hear the needs, challenges, and possible avenues of success directly affecting those Hawai`i farmers that grow our food.

After spending over 12 years overseas working with developing world farmers as agriculture consultants in such countries as Sri Lanka, India, Egypt, China, Croatia and most recently, Lebanon, like Denise, we returned to Hawai`i in 2012 – but to farm ourselves. Without Denise and Feed the Hunger Foundation's involvement in our Wai`anae farm, we would never have achieved the level of success we've realized as we prepare to construct protected agriculture structures that will allow us to farm year-round unhampered by inclement weather as well assorted plant pests and diseases.

We have absolutely no doubt that Denise's passion for advancing Hawai`i agriculture and reducing Hawai`i's food imports will undoubtedly serve as a valuable asset to the Agribusiness Development Corporation. Denise will be the voice of the small farmer in discussions regarding Hawaii's agricultural development. Given her background in the support of small scale farmers, and for all of the above reasons, we respectfully urge your committee and the entire Senate to please confirm Denise Albano as soon as possible to the Board of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Thank you very much for your anticipated assistance with this request.

Warm aloha,



Nancy A. Jones  
General Manager



Zebuel C. Jones  
Director of Hydroponics Operations



April 15, 2015

Dear Senators:

I am writing to strongly support the confirmation of Denise Albano to the Board of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

My name is Patti Chang, and I have known Denise Albano for the last twelve years through her work with at-risk youth in San Francisco and through her work with Feed The Hunger Foundation. Denise and I co-founded Feed The Hunger Foundation and its Hawaii program, "Food For Thought," to address food security in the islands. Feed The Hunger Foundation makes loans to entrepreneurs who are starting or expanding their small businesses. Loans have been made to farmers in Kunia, Waianae, and the Waimea Homestead Association. Feed The Hunger Foundation partners with others to establish new markets in low-income senior housing complexes in West Loch that accepts food stamps. We work with the Waimanalo Market Co-op to introduce a constant supply of fresh produce to this community. The Foundation has invested in cultural, educational, and economic needs through Kako'o'Oiwi.

Denise Albano is a woman of integrity who truly desires the economy of Hawaii, the welfare of its people, and the food system of the islands to grow and develop. Recently, through Denise's efforts, Senator Ruderman and Feed The Hunger Foundation co-hosted an event at the capitol that brought together 20 small farmers and Senators. The Senators were able to hear the needs, challenges, and possible avenues of success directly from the farmers growing our food.

I believe her work and passion for the success of Hawaii's agricultural industry will be an asset to the ADC.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [pattichang@feed-hunger.com](mailto:pattichang@feed-hunger.com) or at 415 793-2429.

Very truly yours,

Patti Chang

April 18, 2015

SENT BY EMAIL

Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture  
The Senate of the State of Hawaii  
Hawaii State Capitol  
Honolulu HI 96813

RE: Consideration and Confirmation of Denise Albano to serve on the Board of  
Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, State of Hawaii.  
GM 719

Dear Senators:

We are the parents of Denise Albano and we request the confirmation of Denise Albano to the Board of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Denise Albano co-founded "Feed the Hunger Foundation" which grants microloans and network support to those throughout the world who dream of creating a better life for themselves, strengthening their families and rebuilding their communities. Its Hawaii program, "Food For Thought," focuses on the agricultural industry and addresses food security in our islands by making loans to entrepreneurs/farmers who are starting or expanding their small businesses. The Foundation has made loans to farmers in Kunia, Waianae, and the Waimea Homestead Association, partnered with others to establish new markets in low-income senior housing complexes in West Loch that accepts food stamps and worked with the Waimanalo Market Co-op to introduce a constant supply of fresh produce to the community. The Foundation has also invested in cultural, educational, and economic needs through Kako'o'Oiwi.

We believe that we have nurtured in our daughter an obligation to contribute back to the community. We also believe that her work and passion for the success of Hawaii's agricultural industry will be an asset to the Agribusiness Development Corporation

Aloha!

Andres Albano Jr.  
Sandra K M. Albano

Dear Senators:

This letter is in support of confirming Denise Albano to the Board of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Denise Albano co-founded Feed The Hunger Foundation and its Hawaii program, "Food For Thought," to address food security in the islands. Feed The Hunger Foundation makes loans to entrepreneurs who are starting or expanding their small businesses. Loans have been made to farmers in Kunia, Waianae, and the Waimea Homestead Association. They partner with others to establish new markets in low-income senior housing complexes in West Loch that accepts food stamps. They work with the Waimanalo Market Co-op to introduce a constant supply of fresh produce to this community. The Foundation has invested in cultural, educational, and economic needs through Kako'o'Oiwi.

Recently, through Denise's efforts, Senator Ruderman and Feed The Hunger Foundation co-hosted an event at the capitol that brought together 20 small farmers and Senators. The Senators were able to hear the needs, challenges, and possible avenues of success directly from the farmers growing our food.

I know her work and passion for the success of Hawaii's agricultural industry will be an asset to the ADC. It is my true pleasure and honor to share my sincere support for Denise's nomination. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to share my thoughts.

Aloha,

Ann Teranishi

Dear Senators:

I fully support the nomination of Denise Albano to the Agribusiness Development Corporation board of directors.

I believe she brings a wealth of experience and knowledge concerning agriculture in Hawaii with special expertise in small agribusiness planning, finance and entrepreneurship.

I trust that you will agree and vote yes on Ms. Albano.

Respectfully,

Dan Nakasone  
President, Brainstorm Marketing Inc.  
Co-Founder, She Grows Food

**Testimony on Behalf of GM 719** –Consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, DENISE ALBANO, for a term to expire 6-30-2016.

April 21, 2015

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Denise Albano for the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC). My name is Michael G. Buck. I am the former State Forester and Wildlife Director for the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). I am currently serving on the State Water Commission, Board President of the Waimanalo Market Co-op, and a small farmer in Waimanalo.

I have the opportunity to work with Denise and you will not find a more dedicated and honest person to serve. Her background and experience will bring an important and unique perspective to ADC as it deals with many complex agricultural and community issues. Denise has served as Executive Director of several nonprofit organizations that provide services to marginalized youth and families. Denise has served on several Boards in San Francisco including: the Mayor's Office Task Force on Ending the Sexual Exploitation of Youth and Edgewood Center for Families, Youth and Children. She received her B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley and her M.A. in Psychology from New York University. A native of Hawaii, Denise is a triathlete and a USA Triathlon certified coach.

She is the current president of the Feed the Hunger Foundation. The Foundation provides loans to low income individuals with businesses in the food system. They identify and partner with organizations that are already working with their target population to: 1) to add value to the organization's ability to help their community; 2) ensure that their borrowers have other support services to increase their success; and 3) build a network that addresses the community's fiscal and physical health. Their programs are making a major impact in developing a healthy and resilient food system in Hawaii.

Please confirm Denise Albano to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Michelle Galimba

PO Box 294  
Naalehu HI 96772  
(808) 430-4927

March 9, 2015

State of Hawaii Board and Commissions

Aloha Boards and Commissions:

This letter is in support of confirming Denise Albano to the Board of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

As someone with a strong record of supporting small and beginning farmers, as well as immigrant and other socially disadvantaged farmers, Denise will bring a fresh perspective to the work of the Agribusiness Development Corporation to ensure that the people of the State of Hawaii are served as fairly as possible.

As a member of the Board of Agriculture I know that a diversity of perspectives makes for a stronger board that better reflects current ideas and mores, and that Denise has much to offer in this regard.

I strongly recommend that you approve the nomination of Denise Albano and thank you for your consideration of her nomination.

Sincerely,

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [pamelaboyar@gmail.com](mailto:pamelaboyar@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for GM719 on Apr 21, 2015 14:45PM\*  
**Date:** Saturday, April 18, 2015 7:10:37 PM

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**GM719**

Submitted on: 4/18/2015

Testimony for AGL on Apr 21, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Pamela Boyar	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

April 15, 2015

SENT BY FACSIMILE (586-6899)  
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture  
The Senate of the State of Hawaii  
Hawaii State Capitol  
Honolulu HI 96813

**RE: GM 719: Consideration and Confirmation of Denise Albano to serve on the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, State of Hawaii.**

Aloha Chair Ruderman and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture:

I wish to share my strong support of Denise Albano's confirmation to the Board of the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC).

Denise co-founded the "Feed the Hunger Foundation" and its Hawaii program, "Food For Thought," to address food security in the islands. Feed The Hunger Foundation makes loans to entrepreneurs who are starting or expanding their small businesses. Loans have been made to farmers in Kunia, Waianae, and the Waimea Homestead Association. They partner with others to establish new markets in low-income senior housing complexes in West Loch that accept food stamps. They also work with the Waimanalo Market Co-op to introduce a constant supply of fresh produce to this community. The Foundation has invested in cultural, educational, and economic needs through Kako'o'Oiwi.

Recently, through Denise's efforts, Senator Ruderman and Feed the Hunger Foundation co-hosted an event at the capitol that brought together 20 small farmers and Senators. The Senators were able to hear the needs, challenges, and possible avenues of success directly from the farmers growing our food.

I believe Denise's work and passion for the success of Hawaii's agricultural industry will be an asset to the ADC, and I would appreciate your favorable consideration of her confirmation.

Me ka mahalo nui,



Rockne Freitas