

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & BIOSECURITY
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI A KIA'I MEAOLA
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9560 FAX: (808) 973-9613

SHARON HURD
Chairperson
Board of Agriculture & Biosecurity

DEAN M. MATSUKAWA
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2026
3:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 244 & VIDEO CONFERENCE**

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 615

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides,
Gubernatorial Nominee, **MATTHEW LYUM**, for a term to expire 06-30-2029

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Governor's Message No. 615. This measure seeks to confirm Matthew Lyum to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides. The Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity ("Department") strongly supports this measure.

Mr. Lyum has previously served on the Advisory Committee on Pesticides and has provided significant insight from the perspective of a professional landscaper. He has a wealth of knowledge and experience that cannot be replaced. A small sample of his incredible repertoire consists of building a reputable business, Performance Landscapes, and serving as president on the Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii.

Mr. Lyum would be a valuable addition to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides, and the Department respectfully requests your vote to confirm his nomination.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify to this measure.



The Senate
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Wednesday, March 4, 2026
3:00 PM Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of GM 615

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

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) is **in support of GM 615**, the appointment of Matt Lyum to serve a second term on the Advisory Committee on Pesticides. I have known Matt for nearly twenty years through the Landscape Industry Council of Hawai'i (LICH). We have served together on the LICH Board of Directors for many years, where we worked to promote the knowledge and training of this important industry. As the co-founder and former president of Performance Landscapes, Matt has extensive experience with pesticides. He has participated as a respected expert in a variety of pesticide-related meetings, including with EPA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and has capably served a term on this advisory committee. Matt is exactly the type of expert and public servant that we hope for in an advisory committee. Please support his reappointment.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Aloha,

Christy Martin
CGAPS Program Manager



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

March 4, 2026

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON GM 615

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides,
Gubernatorial Nominee, MATT LYUM, for a term to expire 06-30-2029

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
3:00 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 Hawaii'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 the confirmation of Matt Lyum to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Mr. Lyum's extensive background in landscape management, agricultural operations, organic waste management, and regulatory compliance provides valuable practical experience for service on the Committee. His familiarity with pesticide regulations, use, and safety, along with his leadership experience within Hawai'i's landscape industry, makes him well qualified to assist the Department of Agriculture in reviewing and advising on pesticide laws and rules.

HFB appreciates Mr. Lyum's willingness to serve and respectfully urges the Committee to confirm his appointment.

Thank you for the opportunity to support the confirmation of Matt Lyum to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

GM-615

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 5:35:09 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brendon Lau	Testifying for Brendon Lau Agricultural LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

Matt Lyum is a highly qualified individual in the areas of landscape and pesticide best practices. I support his placement on the advisory committee on pesticides.

sincerely,

Brendon Lau

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

GM 615, Matthew Lyum
Gubernatorial Nominee to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides

Senate AEN Hearing – 3:00 pm
Wednesday, March 4, 2026

Testimony By: Larry Jeffs
Position: Support

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

I am Larry Jeffs, owner and operator of Larry Jeffs Farms, LLC. We have more than 40 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 and chair of the West Oahu Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). I have been an officer of the Hawaii Farm Bureau for many years.

Matthew Lyum's extensive experience in landscape design and maintenance, organic waste management and aquaculture operations, and as Hawaii's licensed manufacturer of compost socks---all of which he is the owner and principal---uniquely qualifies him to continue serving on this Advisory Committee.

He will bring these experiences to promote the responsible use of pesticides, advocate for training and education for responsible use of pesticides, and support the use of Integrated Pest Management practices to minimize overall pesticide reliance.

Your favorable consideration of Mr. Lyum's nomination to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides is appreciated. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



March 2, 2026

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Appointment of Matt Lyum to the Governor's Pesticide Advisory Council

Chairman Gabbard and Distinguished Members of the Committee:

I write today to recommend my friend and colleague Matt Lyum for a second term on the Governor's Pesticide Advisory Council to represent Hawaii's landscape industry. Matt's deep experience as a business owner and as a professional pesticide applicator make him the ideal choice for this appointment.

Matt understands the critical importance of the stewardship of our natural resources when using pesticides and is an ardent practitioner of integrated pest management (IPM) protocols for the use of pesticides in landscapes.

In my role at NALP, I interface with our federal pesticide regulatory officials at the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. As part of EPA's effort to comply with the Endangered Species Act, the agency recognized that over 40% of all threatened and endangered species in the United States exist on the Hawaiian Islands alone. To address this EPA initiated the Hawaii Strategy which, when completed, will serve as a roadmap to guide decision making focused on mitigating off-target effects of pesticides.

Matt was instrumental as the voice of the landscape industry at a workshop hosted by EPA in early 2024. Having Matt speak to the specific stewardship tactics unique to Hawaii was invaluable and deeply appreciated. No one from the mainland would be able to articulate these nuances as well as Matt did for the landscape industry.

With these things in mind, I wholeheartedly recommend Matt's reappointment to the Pesticide Advisory Council. You are extremely fortunate to have him.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'R+H. M' followed by a horizontal line.

Bob Mann
Senior Director of Technical & Regulatory Affairs

TESTIMONY ON GOV MSG NO 615, RELATING TO
THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDES

Position: **Support**

To Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair; Senator Herbert “Tim” Richards III, Vice Chair; and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment.

Please accept this testimony in **support** of this nomination of Matthew (Matt) Lyum to be considered for the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Simonpietri Enterprises LLC is an O’ahu-based small business that is developing innovative ways to recycle waste generated in Hawai`i into renewable fuels and other beneficial recycled-material products for use in Hawai`i starting with the Aloha Sustainable Materials Recycling and Fertilizer Facility (SMRFF). For the past 4 years, we have been conducting research on recycling invasive and pest infested biomass into locally produced organic and potash fertilizers for landscape restoration and agricultural use. Over the course of that time, Matt has provided advice on multiple occasions to help us scope our Aloha Fertilizer innovation and manufacturing project on O’ahu. Not only is he experienced and knowledgeable, he has also exercised leadership in the landscaping industry and the circular economy for decades.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on behalf of Matt Lyum, and urge your support and approval of his nomination.

Sincerely,



Marie-Joelle Simonpietri
President

[About Simonpietri Enterprises LLC](#)

Simonpietri Enterprises is a Kailua, Hawaii-based woman- and veteran-owned small business with ten employees, focused on technical innovation and first-of-kind project development of emerging clean and renewable technologies. Since founding in 2006, we have helped dozens of small and large industrial companies in Hawaii, the continental U.S., Australia, and Canada improve the environmental and economic sustainability of their operations through technical and business advice in renewable energy conversion, waste reduction and re-use, and greenhouse gas lifecycle impact reduction. Simonpietri Enterprises’ founder and employees have participated in the strategy, planning, design, financing, development, construction, and energy efficiency/greenhouse gas reduction/sustainability renovation for over \$400 million in new renewable and first-of-kind sustainable fuel projects over the past 15 years. Since launching the Aloha Carbon waste-to-fuel technical development process in August 2020, Simonpietri Enterprises is now developing renewable fuel production facilities in its own right, starting with the Aloha Sustainable Materials Recycling and Fertilizer Facility (SMRFF) in Kapolei, Hawaii to divert wastes generated in Honolulu from landfilling and transform it to renewable fuel, organic fertilizer, and recycled-material building products.



March 3, 2026

Aloha Chair Gabbard and Members,

I am writing in strong support of the appointment of my colleague Matt Lyum, to the Governor's Pesticide Advisory Board.

He brings more than two decades of hands-on experience as the owner and operator of a successful landscape maintenance business in Hawai'i. For over 20 years, he was directly responsible for the safe, compliant, and effective application of pesticides in a wide range of environments — from commercial properties to residential communities. His experience is not theoretical; it is grounded in daily operational decision-making, regulatory compliance, workforce training, and environmental stewardship.

Beyond running his own company, he has demonstrated industry leadership at the highest level by serving as the current Board President of the Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii (LICH). In that role, he worked collaboratively with contractors, suppliers, regulators, and policymakers to elevate professional standards across the state. His leadership reflects a commitment not only to business success, but to responsible industry practices and public trust.

The Governor's Pesticide Advisory Board benefits most from individuals who understand both regulatory intent and field-level realities. He possesses the rare combination of practical expertise, executive leadership, and public service experience that will strengthen the Board's deliberations and decision-making.

I fully and unequivocally support his appointment. He will serve with integrity, professionalism, and a deep commitment to protecting Hawai'i's environment, agricultural interests, industry workforce, and communities.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Aaron A. Akau
Executive Vice President

Sperber Landscape Companies

GM-615

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 10:12:05 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tomoko Naka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing in strong support of GM 615, the reappointment of Matt Lyum to a second term on the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Matt brings decades of experience in the landscape industry, including co-founding Performance Landscapes, one of Hawai‘i’s most respected landscape companies. He possesses deep knowledge of pesticide use—including restricted-use pesticides—and understands how these products are applied responsibly within the landscape profession.

In addition to his professional expertise, Matt has served on the board of the Landscape Industry Council of Hawai‘i (LICH) and currently serves as LICH President. As a fellow member of the LICH Board of Directors, I have worked closely with Matt to advance training and education for our industry. I know that, if reappointed, he will continue to contribute his dedication, expertise, and thoughtful leadership to this committee.

Mahalo for the opportunity to express my strong support for Matt Lyum.

Tomoko Naka

GM-615

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 12:21:37 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janet Ashman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the confirmation of Matt Lyum to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides. Over the years, I have worked with Matt to explore good stewardship practices and policies relating to various agricultural issues such as composting and pesticide education, among others. Matt's expertise in pesticide regulation and use give him the ideal background to be an effective member of the Committee. Thank you.

GM-615

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 10:01:50 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Allison C Wright	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in support of GM 615

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

I am in strong support of GM 615, the appointment of Matt Lyum to serve a second term on the Advisory Committee on Pesticides. Matt dedicated years of service to the landscape industry, including co-founding Performance Landscapes, as well as working as a Plant Health consultant. Matt is deeply knowledgeable about pesticides, and has helped create programs for education on pesticides in Hawaii. He has also served on the board of the Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii (LICH) and currently serves as LICH President. As a member of the committee he would continue to advocate for the best uses of, and education around pesticides and their use in Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to share my support of Matt Lyum.

Allison Wright