

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson
Board of Agriculture & Biosecurity

DEAN M. MATSUKAWA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & BIOSECURITY
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI A KIA'I MEAOLA
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**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND BIOSECURITY**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2026
3:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 224 & VIDEOCONFERENCE**

GOVERNORS MESSAGE NO. 616

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity, Gubernatorial Nominee, EN YOUNG, 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 in support of Gubernatorial Nominee En Young to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity for a term to expire 06-30-2029.

En Young has served in decision making roles for over 18 years, beginning as a Program Specialist reviewing grants in 2008, on to Chief Executive for the Food Basket, Inc., then as General Manager for Sensei Holdings, Food Safety Specialist for Ke`ei Consulting, Deputy Director for the City and County of Honolulu, Executive Director at Pacific Gateway Center and currently as a Director at Kamehameha Schools. His experience is statewide, at different levels of government and includes familiarity with a wide range of agriculture, all valuable to his continued service on the BAB.

Respectfully requesting your confirmation of En Young for another term as an at-large member of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





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March 4, 2026

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON GM 616

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, EN YOUNG, 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 En Young to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

Mr. Young brings a strong and diverse background in Hawai'i's food systems, economic development, nonprofit leadership, and public administration. In his current role as Director of Sustainable Industry Development at Kamehameha Schools, he is directly engaged in advancing local food systems, agriculture, and investment in Hawai'i-based industries. His work focuses on strengthening targeted value chains and supporting local businesses, including those in agriculture.

Previously, as Executive Director of Pacific Gateway Center, Mr. Young oversaw agricultural and food-related programs, including operations connected to a 176-acre farm in Kunia. His experience managing food system initiatives, workforce development programs, and community partnerships provides practical insight into the challenges and opportunities facing Hawai'i's agricultural sector.

Mr. Young also serves on the City and County of Honolulu's Agricultural Task Force, where he participates in discussions related to agricultural land use, regulatory challenges, and the long-term viability of farming on O'ahu. This county-level perspective complements his service on the Board and strengthens his understanding of the issues affecting producers across the State.

During his tenure on the Board of Agriculture, Mr. Young has demonstrated thoughtful engagement in Board discussions, asking important questions and contributing to meaningful dialogue on complex agricultural and biosecurity matters. His collaborative approach and experience across public, private, and nonprofit sectors have added value to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

GM616
En Young

Wednesday, March 4, 2026, 3:00 PM
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

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

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports GM616** for the consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity, Gubernatorial Nominee, EN YOUNG, for a term to expire 06-30-2029.

In his first term as a member on the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity, Mr. Young has provided key input into the business of the board. He is a steadfast advocate of agriculture and has a skill for identifying projects that help the industry as a whole, from supporting the producer with land access, to marketing products to the producer. He truly has a grasp of the needs across the supply chain of agricultural production.

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. Ranchers produce a high-quality protein and are the stewards of almost 750 thousand acres of land in Hawaii, or nearly 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-616

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 12:49:16 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Megan Blazak	Testifying for Hilo County Farm Bureau	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and members of the Committee,

Hilo County Farm Bureau strongly supports the confirmation of En Young to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

Mr. Young's professional experience in the public and private sectors in Hawai'i have focused on strategic interventions for improving local food systems and encouraging sustainable industry development. This includes prior experience in agribusiness and as an executive director of major nonprofit and philanthropic organizations. Mr. Young is well-equipped to effectively serve on the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Mr. Young's confirmation.

Megan Blazak
Chapter President
Hilo County Farm Bureau

March 4, 2026
3:00 PM
Conference Room 224
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Testimony in Support of GM 616

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

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

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

My name is Scott Enright and I stand in strong support of En Young's confirmation to serve on the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity. I have known and worked with En Young during his time at Hawaii Island's Food Basket, the Lanai Company, and at Kamehameha Schools. En Young has a strong work ethic and has demonstrated his value to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity during his first four years of service on the Board. The Governor has put forward an outstanding nominee and Hawaii's agricultural community will be well served with En Young's service on the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

Again, I stand in strong support of En Young and GM616.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Enright". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "S" and "E".

Scott Enright

GM-616

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 8:40:50 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lon Paresa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support En Young for the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity. Thank you .

GM-616

Submitted on: 3/4/2026 8:21:51 AM

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 support the confirmation of En Young to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity.