

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
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9560 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**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. 617

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity, Gubernatorial Nominee, JASON MONIZ, 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 Jason Moniz to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity for a term to expire 06-30-2029.

Dr. Moniz has been advocating for Hawaii agriculture for decades. His dedication can be traced back to serving as the State President of the Hawaii 4H Livestock Association to his service as State Veterinary Program Manager, retiring in 2022. His knowledge of livestock in Hawaii is expansive and includes land management, animal diseases, state and federal regulations and networking with state associations.

I have worked with Dr. Moniz, and respect for the knowledge, professionalism, hard work ethic and candid assessments he brings with him to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity (BAB).

Respectfully requesting your confirmation of Jason Moniz as the at-large member of BAB. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





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 617

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, JASON MONIZ, 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 strongly supports the confirmation of Jason Moniz to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

Dr. Moniz brings decades of direct experience in both agricultural production and animal disease control. He served for over 30 years with the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity, including as Veterinary Program Manager for the Animal Disease Control Branch, where he oversaw statewide efforts to prevent domestic and foreign animal diseases from entering the State and to control and eradicate regulatory diseases affecting livestock, poultry, aquaculture, and public health.

In addition to his public service, Dr. Moniz is a fourth-generation agriculturalist and operates a 5,200-acre beef cattle ranch with his family. His hands-on experience in herd health, biosecurity, pasture management, invasive species control, and regenerative agricultural practices provides him with a practical understanding of the day-to-day challenges producers in Hawai'i face.

Dr. Moniz has also been actively involved in agricultural organizations, including service within the Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council, Hawai'i Farm Bureau, and 4-H. His leadership and long-standing commitment to Hawai'i agriculture demonstrate his dedication to strengthening our local livestock industry and protecting the State's biosecurity.

HFB believes Dr. Moniz's combination of regulatory expertise, veterinary background, and real-world ranching experience will be a tremendous asset to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity, particularly as the State continues to address biosecurity threats and support the long-term viability of livestock production in Hawai'i.

We respectfully urge 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

GM617
Jason Moniz

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 **strongly supports GM617** for the consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity, Gubernatorial Nominee, JASON MONIZ, for a term to expire 06-30-2029.

Dr. Jason Moniz has extensive experience in agriculture and biosecurity through his family ranch as well as his long-term tenure as the Veterinary Program Manager with the Department. Dr. Moniz is currently the Vice President of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council and has served as Committee Chair for the Animal Health and Well-being Committee and Law Enforcement Committee recently. In our experience working with Dr. Moniz, he has shown many beneficial skills and character traits that will serve the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity well. With his wealth of knowledge, he has shown that he can contribute that knowledge while remaining unbiased. He ensures that recommendations for actions are ones that take the industry as a whole into consideration. He is also well versed in reading through testimony, bills, laws, and other documents to distill the important information. His keen eye for detail as well as his ability to think through all aspects of a situation will benefit the Board when making difficult decisions.

Dr. Moniz has proven that he is willing to put in the time and effort to fully engage and complete projects for the benefit of the community. We highly recommend the confirmation of Dr. Jason Moniz to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

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-617

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 7:36:21 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keith Unger	Testifying for McCandless Ranch	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Keith Unger and McCandless Ranch strongly support the confirmation of Dr. Jason Moniz to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity. He is well known in the industry and has proven to be able to represent a wide variety of stakeholders.

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

GM 617, Jason Moniz
Gubernatorial Nominee to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity
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.

Jason Moniz, a fourth-generation Hawaii agriculturist, is a retired livestock veterinarian and cattle rancher. He contributes to many agriculture-related organizations in leadership capacities, such as State president of the Hawaii State 4H Livestock Association, President of the Hamakua County Farm Bureau, and Vice President of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council. As an owner-rancher of a family-run business, he is well-versed in all facets of running a successful beef cattle ranch, from land management issues to livestock management issues.

It is clear that Jason Moniz is an advocate for Hawaii agriculture and will enhance the Board of DAB's deliberation on issues that affect agriculture and biosecurity.

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

GM-617

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 12:54:33 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 Jason Moniz to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

A fourth generation livestock producer in Hawai'i, Mr. Moniz is an experienced livestock veterinarian and cattle rancher. He has dedicated his career and personal life to supporting and advocating for Hawai'i's agricultural industry. Mr. Moniz is a proven and trusted leader in the community and will be an excellent member of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

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

Megan Blazak
Chapter President
Hilo County Farm Bureau



TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

In Support of Governor's Message 617 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity, Gubernatorial Nominee, **JASON MONIZ**, for a term to expire June 30, 2029.

Wednesday, March 4, 2026, 3:00 p.m. State Capitol, Conference Room 224

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

My name is Micah Kāne, and I serve as President and CEO of Parker Ranch, Inc. in Waimea, Hawai'i. I am pleased to submit this testimony in strong support of GM 617, confirming Dr. Jason Moniz to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

Dr. Moniz has devoted his career to advancing Hawai'i's agriculture industry. As a fourth-generation cattle rancher and former Veterinary Program Manager for the department's Animal Disease Control Branch, he possesses a deep understanding of the challenges facing the sector, and brings the practical experience and technical expertise needed to make a meaningful and positive impact.

Moreover, his deep commitment to cattle ranching and responsible land stewardship is reflected in his extensive volunteer service, including his involvement with the Farm Bureau, the Cattlemen's Council, 4-H, and the Hāmākua Community Development Plan.

As a longtime steward of Hawaii's lands and committed advocate for the agriculture industry, Dr. Moniz brings both the expertise and the passion needed to serve on the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity. On behalf of Parker Ranch, we are honored to offer our strong support for his confirmation.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Micah A. Kāne
President and CEO
Parker Ranch, Inc.

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

GM617
Jason Moniz

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

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

I strongly support GM617 for the consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity, Gubernatorial Nominee, JASON MONIZ, for a term to expire 06-30-2029.

Dr. Moniz has done tremendous work as a veterinarian program manager. He has personally helped our livestock with biosecurity and has given useful insight that has shaped our production to be sustainable.

Dr. Moniz and his family have been ranching for decades. I have had the privilege to work alongside them. They are excellent stewards of their land and the livestock they own. As a rancher, I personally look up to Dr. Moniz.

I strongly support GM617.

Thank you,
Sharlei Iranon
Triple S Livestock LLC

GM-617

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 9:08:29 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chelsea Branco	Testifying for USDA / First Gate Farms	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Chelsea Branco and I am a livestock producer in Hawaii. I am writing in strong support of GM617 confirming Dr. Jason Moniz to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

I had the opportunity to work with Dr. Moniz during this time with the Hawaii State Department of Agriculture Livestock Industry Division. Through that experience, I saw firsthand his commitment to animal health, agriculture, and the ranching community in Hawaii.

Dr. Moniz brings decades of practical experience in veterinary medicine and livestock health, and he understands the unique challenges our islands face in protecting animal agriculture and maintaining strong biosecurity. His knowledge and dedication make him an excellent choice to serve on the board.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony, and I respectfully ask that the committee support his confirmation.

Sincerely,

Chelsea Branco

GM-617

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 5:13:36 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara Moore	Testifying for KEALIA RANCH	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support the nomination and appointment of Jason Moniz.

I have worked alongside Dr. Moniz for 30 years in the livestock industry and can think of no better person for this job. He will serve dutifully and thoroughly for the industry and all agriculture.

Mahalo

GM-617

Submitted on: 3/4/2026 7:23:05 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lani Petrie	Testifying for Kapapala Ranch	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support Dr. Jason Moniz for the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity. I own and operate Kapapala Ranch and have worked with Dr. Moniz for 40 years. He is our 911 emergency response call. As the State's Veterinarian he knew that pandemic outbreaks could devastate an entire industry.

I have also served with him on Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council, Hawaii Cattle Producers Cooperative, and numerous industry committees. His experience is what we need at the DAB.

Sincerely,

Lani Petrie

GM-617

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 9:32:10 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bridget Kapahu	Testifying for Oahu Cattlemen’s Association & me Personally as a rancher	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Strong Support of GM 617

Committee on Agriculture and Environment (AEN)

March 4, 2026 – 3:00 PM

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Bridget Napier Kapahu. I am a fourth-generation rancher actively engaged in Hawai‘i’s cattle industry and agricultural operations. I am writing in strong support of GM 617, confirming Dr. Jason Moniz to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

Dr. Jason Moniz brings meaningful experience in both agriculture and veterinary medicine. His background provides a practical understanding of animal health, disease prevention, food safety, and biosecurity — all of which are critical to Hawai‘i’s agricultural future.

As our state continues to face increasing pressures from invasive species, livestock disease threats, and the need to strengthen local food systems, having someone on the Board who understands both production agriculture and veterinary science is invaluable.

Beyond his professional qualifications, Dr. Moniz has demonstrated that he is an advocate for the agricultural community. He has shown the ability to represent and communicate with a wide variety of stakeholders — including ranchers, farmers, veterinarians, regulators, and industry partners. That balance is essential for a Board that must navigate complex and sometimes competing interests.

Hawai'i agriculture benefits when leadership includes individuals who understand the realities on the ground and are committed to practical, science-based solutions.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to support the confirmation of Dr. Jason Moniz to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Bridget Napier Kapahu

GM-617

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 3:51:29 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jimmy Gomes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Jason is a strong advocate for our ag stakeholders, ranching and ag farmers. I am in total support in his nomination to DAB. I am also on the DAB board and witness Jason asking very spot on questions to staff and leasees.

GM-617

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 11:21:44 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Theresa Thompson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support 617 GM Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity, Gubernatorial Nominee, JASON MONIZ, for a term to expire 06-30-2029.

Mahalo,

Theresa Thompson

Kula, Maui

GM-617

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 9:36:18 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Wood	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dr Moniz's experience and practical knowledge of Hawaii's agricultural landscape will be a tremendous asset to the state of Hawaii. A wise choice.

GM-617

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 1:42:08 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Randy Cabral	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dr. Moniz has years of agricultural experience and is highly qualified to serve on the Board. I strongly recommend is confirmation.

GM-617

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 10:33:45 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Warren Watanabe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the consideration and confirmation of Jason Moniz to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

GM-617

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 7:58:31 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alex Franco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Tim Richards, Vice Chair

I strongly support GM617 for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity, Gubernatorial Nominee, Dr. Jason Moniz, for a term to expire 6/30/2029.

Dr. Jason Moniz has a tremendous background in our agriculture industry and will bring great value to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

Thank You,

Alex Franco

GM-617

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 8:44:54 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I strongly support the nomination of Dr. Jason Moniz, GM 617 as a member to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity. I first met Dr. Moniz in 1999 when I was working for my family farming operation. The Hawaii Egg Producers were dealing with a trace back investigation of a food borne illness related to eggs on Oahu and Dr. Moniz worked expeditiously with the egg producers to meet Biosecurity measures and Good Agricultural Practices to protect the health of their flocks and continue to supply wholesome and safe fresh eggs to the consumers statewide. Not only did he fulfilled his duties as the Veterinary Program Manager of the Animal Disease Control Branch but he collaborated well the UH CTAHR Extension Veterinarian and the Epidemiology Chief at the DOH to educate both producers and the food system. I believe his knowledge and logical demeanor assisted the egg industry at a fearful time.

In 2015-2022, I was fortunate again to work with Dr. Moniz when I joined the former Department of Agriculture. During those eight years, it was a pleasure and honor to work with him even through challenging times of animal quarantine and disease issues, and interruption of meat processing facilities that would devastate rural and local communities. I learned that he is thorough with his literature review and has strong analytical skills. He also manages his staff well and was respected by them because they knew he "had their backs" and would take responsibility for the actions within his program. He is also experienced with the Board progress from start to finish and has served as hearings officer for DAB (formerly DOA) public hearing for administrative rules process.

I believe he would be a great asset as a member of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity and I ask for your support of advise and consent for GM 617 Dr. Jason Moniz as a member of the Board.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in support.

Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser

TESTIMONY OF ISAAC MAEDA, DVM

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

MARCH 4, 2026
3:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 224

GM 617

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND BIOSECURITY, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, JASON MONIZ

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

I strongly support Dr. Jason Moniz's appointment with the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity. I have known and worked with Dr. Moniz for many years through college, and after as a colleague and fellow veterinarian.

Jason possesses both veterinary medical knowledge and skills as well as practical experience as a rancher on the Big Island. In addition, his prior position as the Veterinary Program Manager for the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture, Animal Disease Control Branch also afforded him firsthand regulatory experience. He understands both that perspective from the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity, and that of a producer.

Dr. Moniz has a strong work ethic, is reliable, thorough and understands Hawai'i agriculture. He can simplify issues and concepts and communicate them to stakeholders. Moreover, his experience and knowledge bring practicality and common sense. Dr. Moniz is respected by many in the agriculture community and will serve well as a member of the Board Agriculture and Biosecurity.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

GM-617

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 11:05:22 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jimmy Greenwell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have known Dr Moniz for a long time. He is experienced, dedicated, respected and wise and we are so lucky he is willing to offer his services to the State and the industry. My strongest support for this nomination.

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

Testimony in Support of GM 617

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 Jason Moniz's confirmation to serve on the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity. Jason and I worked together at the Hawaii Department of Agriculture in my time serving in the Office of the Chairperson. Jason's integrity and leadership supported successful outcomes with the programs at the Department of Animal Industry Division. Now retired, Jason has brought his leadership skills to the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council assisting and moving Hawaii's cattle industry forward. The Governor has put forward a wonderful nominee and Hawaii's agricultural community will be well served with Jason Moniz's service on the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

Again, I stand in strong support of Dr. Jason Moniz and GM617.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Enright". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Scott Enright

GM-617

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 2:27:27 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Whitney Boteilho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support GM617 for the consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity, Gubernatorial Nominee, Jason Moniz, for a term to expire 06-30-2029.

Dr, Jason Moniz brings extensive experience in agriculture and veterinary medicine, positioning him to make meaningful contributions to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity. He is a strong advocate for the industry and has demonstrated the ability to effectively represent a diverse range of stakeholders.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

GM-617

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 2:38:31 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
George Wood	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

Please accept my strong support for Dr. Jason Moniz to serve on the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

I have known Dr. Moniz for over 40 years in his roles as State Veterinarian and rancher. It is rare to find a candidate who has had such a lengthy and productive career both as a regulator and as a producer. Dr. Moniz understands agriculture from the ground up. He knows firsthand the challenges and opportunities facing agriculture in Hawai‘i, as well as the urgency of strengthening our food security.

During his tenure as State Veterinarian, Dr. Moniz demonstrated a consistent ability to listen to producers while addressing complex and sensitive issues, including efforts to eradicate bovine tuberculosis on Moloka‘i. He has proven that he can work effectively with government agencies at the county, state, and federal levels, and do so in a manner that remains practical and grounded for farmers and ranchers.

Dr. Moniz brings experience, integrity, and balance to the table. I respectfully ask for your favorable consideration of his appointment.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support.

GM-617

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 12:24:55 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
DeeDee Bertelmann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in complete support of Dr. Jason Moniz to be considered and confirmed as the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity, Gubernatorial Nominee. He is very experienced in agriculture and veterinary medicine. He has many years of experience as our local veterinary and a state veterinary. He is needed and very qualified for this position!

GM-617

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 8:12:02 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gary G. Moniz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

I stand in strong support for Dr. Jason Moniz DVM, a candidate to fill a vacancy on the State of Hawaii, Dept of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo, Gary D. Moniz

(retired) State of Hawaii, DLNR, Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement, Enforcement Chief, Administrator, Conservation and Resources Enforcement and Hawaii Hunter Education. (former) State of Hawaii, Department of Agriculture, Animal Industry, Animal Quarantine and Inspection Branch Chief, Halawa Animal Quarantine Station, Honolulu International Airport, Animal Quarantine and Inspection Facility, Manager.

GM-617

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 9:54:00 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hauolihiwahiwa Moniz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai,

I am writing to express my strong support for the confirmation of Jason Moniz to serve on the Hawai‘i Board of Agriculture.

Jason Moniz brings a grounded, community-informed perspective that is critically needed on the Board of Agriculture at this time. His work reflects a deep understanding that agriculture in Hawai‘i is not solely an economic sector, but a system inseparable from ‘āina stewardship, food sovereignty, and the well-being of our people. His approach recognizes that decisions made at the policy level have real and lasting impacts on farmers, practitioners, and local communities across the pae ‘āina.

What distinguishes Jason Moniz is his commitment to thoughtful, long-term solutions rather than short-term gains. He demonstrates an ability to listen to diverse stakeholders, weigh competing interests responsibly, and center the health of Hawai‘i’s land and water resources in agricultural decision-making. This balance of practicality and values-based leadership is essential for navigating the complex challenges facing Hawai‘i agriculture today, including land use pressures, food security, and climate resilience.

Jason Moniz’s perspective aligns with the need for agricultural leadership that is accountable to local communities and responsive to Hawai‘i’s unique ecological and cultural contexts. His appointment would strengthen the Board’s capacity to support sustainable farming practices, protect agricultural lands, and promote systems that benefit both current and future generations.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge your full support of Jason Moniz’s confirmation to the Hawai‘i Board of Agriculture. - Hau‘olihiwahiwa Moniz, Master of Arts in Hawaiian Studies, Master of Library and Information Science

GM-617

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 8:07:00 PM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha

I support Jason Moniz for the Board of Agriculture. He is very hard working and knowledgeable and will do a great job.

Respectfully

Kathleen Luana Durante Moniz

GM-617

Submitted on: 3/4/2026 8:13:24 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 strongly support the confirmation of Dr. Jason Moniz to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

I have worked with Dr. Moniz on many complicated agricultural issues over the years. His dedication, training, experience, and thoughtful consideration of all aspects of a challenge make him the ideal choice for this Board. Hawai'i is very fortunate that Dr. Moniz is willing to volunteer for this important role.

Thank you for your continued support of farming in Hawai'i.